

parent, especially with regard to perceptions of friendship and sexuality. The study findings are discussed in light of methodological problems in this type of research, and directions for future research are suggested. (*The dissertation citation and abstract contained here is published with permission of ProQuest Information and Learning. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.*)

Puryear, D. (1983). *A comparison between the children of lesbian mothers and the children of heterosexual mothers.* Unpublished doctoral dissertation, California School of Professional Psychology, Berkeley CA.

This study explored the effect of mothers' sexual orientation on three areas of development in children of latency age: self-concept, locus of control orientation, and self and familial views. Fifteen lesbian mother-child pairs and 15 heterosexual mother-child pairs comprised the sample. The two groups were highly similar on a number of personal and demographic variables (e.g., socioeconomic status, age, length of time separated, age of children, etc.). Self-concept was measured by the Piers-Harris Children's Self-Concept Scale (1969), an 80-item "Yes-No" questionnaire. Locus of control orientation was measured by the Nowicki-Strickland Locus of Control Scale for Children (1973), a 40-item "Yes-No" questionnaire. Children's self and familial views were measured by the Kinetic Family Drawing Rating Scale devised by the investigator and adapted from the Burns and Kaufman (1982) scoring method for the Kinetic Family Drawing Projective Test. Mothers also completed a Family Questionnaire devised by the investigator which included demographic information and questions regarding mother's and child's adjustments to the separation from the child's father. No significant differences were found between the two groups of children in self-concept or in locus of control orientation scores. These findings make it difficult to defend the view that the mother's sexual orientation is detrimental to the development of the child's self-concept or locus of control orientation. There were significant differences, however, in self and family

views between the two groups of children. More children of heterosexual mothers depicted the family and father in activities with them than did children of lesbian mothers. Also, the majority of children with heterosexual mothers drew scenes depicting cooperation between the child and other figures, whereas most of the children of lesbian mothers did not. It was noteworthy that most of the children in the sample included the father in their drawings, suggesting that the father is a very important figure in these children's lives regardless of mother's sexual orientation. It was suggested that the impact of divorce (or separation) on the child is greater than the mother's sexual orientation. The need for longitudinal studies of children of lesbian mothers, particularly from latency through adolescence, was emphasized. (*The dissertation citation and abstract contained here is published with permission of ProQuest Information and Learning. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.*)

Rand, C., Graham, D. L. R., & Rawlings, E. I. (1982). Psychological health and factors the court seeks to control in lesbian mother custody trials. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 8, 27-39.

The court has repeatedly ruled that a mother will lose custody of and visitation privileges with her children if she expresses her lesbianism through involvement or cohabitation with a female partner, being affiliated with a lesbian community, or disclosing her lesbianism to her children. The present study examined associations between expressions of lesbianism for 25, 23-to 46-year-old White self-identified lesbian mothers and psychological health, as measured by three scales on the California Psychological Inventory and by the Affectometer. Psychological health correlated positively with openness to employer, ex-husband, children, a lesbian community, and amount of feminist activism. Partial support was found for the hypothesis that lesbian mothers who were expressing their lesbianism would be psychologically healthier than those who were not. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)



Rees, R. L. (1979). *A comparison of children of lesbian and single heterosexual mothers on three measures of socialization.* Unpublished doctoral dissertation, California School of Professional Psychology, Berkeley CA. No abstract available.

Sarantakos, S. (1996). *Children in three contexts: Family, education, and social development.* *Children Australia*, 21(3), 23-31. No abstract available. See footnote on page 6.

Sbordone, A. J. (1993). *Gay men choosing fatherhood.* Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Department of Psychology, City University of New York.

Seventy-eight gay men who are parents via adoption or arrangements with surrogate mothers were compared with 83 gay non-fathers on measures of internalized homophobia, self-esteem, and recollections of

their families of origin during childhood. Questionnaires included: the Nungesser Homosexual Attitudes Inventory, the Ego-Dystonic Homosexuality Scale, the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale, the Marlowe-Crowne Social Desirability Scale, the Family-of-Origin Scale, the Parent-Child Relations Questionnaire II, and a demographic section. Tests of statistical significance included: the *t*-test, Mann-Whitney *U*-test, chi-square, Pearson's *r*, and analysis of variance. This research begins the documentation of a recent phenomenon in the gay community, gay men who are choosing to become fathers within the context of a gay identity. Results indicate that fathers and non-fathers do not differ significantly in their recollections of maternal and paternal parent-child relationships on measures of love, rejection, attention, or casual versus demanding attitudes toward rules. Nor do the two groups differ significantly on their perceptions of intimacy and autonomy in the family of origin. However, fathers do display significantly higher levels of self-esteem and significantly lower levels of internalized

homophobia than non-fathers. Further comparisons include non-fathers who would like to raise a child and those who would not, and correlations between the arrival of a child and scores on measures of self-esteem and internalized homophobia. The author speculates that the fathers' higher self-esteem and lower internalized homophobia are a result of fatherhood rather than a precursor to it. (*The dissertation citation and abstract contained here is published with permission of ProQuest Information and Learning. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.*)

Siegenthaler, A. L., & Bigner, J. J. (2000). The value of children to lesbian and non-lesbian mothers. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 39, 73-91.

Compared the responses of 25 lesbian and 26 non-lesbian mothers (mean age 35 yrs.) to items on the Value of Children (VOC) Scale. This instrument measures the reasons that may explain why adults become parents and the values and functions for children in the lives of adults. Results indicate that there are more similarities than differences between lesbian and non-lesbian mothers in responses on the VOC scale. Only one subscale that measures goals and incentives for assuming parenthood and having children differentiated between the groups. The lack of differences in response patterns on the VOC scale between lesbian and non-lesbian mothers may be attributed to the similar socialization experiences of women in our society regarding parenthood and the expectations of individuals upon assuming this role in adulthood. The significant differences in responses on the one subscale may be attributed to differences in world-views of lesbian and non-lesbian mothers. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Steckel, A. (1987). Psychosocial development of children of lesbian mothers. In F. W. Bozett, (Ed.), *Gay and lesbian parents* (pp. 75-85). New York: Praeger.

(From the chapter) children of lesbians / confused in their sexual identity / sex roles / sexual orienta-

tion. Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence or Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children—Revised, several tests for sex-role behavior and gender identity, and the Bene-Anthony Family Relations test. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Steckel, A. (1985). *Separation-individuation in children of lesbian and heterosexual couples*. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, The Wright Institute Graduate School, Berkeley CA.

This exploratory study compared separation-individuation in children of lesbian and heterosexual couples, examining how the presence of a female co-parent, rather than a father, might (1) facilitate or hinder a child's intrapsychic separation and (2) affect girls and boys differently. Independence, ego functions and object relations, components of separation-individuation, were measured through use of a structured parent interview, a Q-Sort administered to parents and teachers, and a Structured Doll Technique with the child. Subjects were 11 lesbian families and 11 heterosexual families. The children ranged from 2 years 10 months to 5 years in age, with eight boys and three girls in each group. Parent interviews were analyzed qualitatively for differences between reports of lesbian and heterosexual parents. Structured Doll Technique protocols were scored by raters. T tests were performed on Q-Sort items and on Structured Doll Technique scores by family structure group (lesbian vs. heterosexual) and by child's gender. Major findings were that children of both lesbians and heterosexuals fell within the normal range of the separation-individuation process. Neither group revealed more psychopathology or difficulties in separation-individuation than the other group. Yet findings also demonstrated significantly different experiences of separation and individuation for lesbians' and heterosexuals' children. Heterosexuals' children had a more aggressively tinged separation. They saw themselves as more aggressive ($p < .01$), were seen as more bossy and domineering ($p < .05$), more active in asserting themselves ($p < .05$), more negativistic ($p < .05$),

more involved in power struggles ($p < .05$), and less likely to take commands and demands in stride ($p < .05$). In contrast, lesbians' children had a more lovable self-image ($p < .05$), expressed more helplessness ($p < .01$), and were seen as more affectionate and responsive ($p < .01$), and as more protective toward those younger ($p < .05$). Data regarding gender differences demonstrated that lesbians' daughters were especially interested in developing relationships ($p < .05$) and heterosexuals' sons were notably active in asserting themselves ($p < .05$). It was concluded that the presence of a female co-parent, rather than a father, does not adversely affect the child's progression through the separation-individuation process, but does establish a qualitatively different separation experience. (*The dissertation citation and abstract contained here is published with permission of ProQuest Information and Learning. Further reproduction is prohibited without permission.*)

Sullivan, M. (1996). Rozzie and Harriet? Gender and family patterns of lesbian coparents. *Gender and Society*, 10, 747-767.

In this article the author explores the ways in which lesbian coparents divide household, child care, and paid labor to learn whether, and the degree to which, they adopt egalitarian work and family arrangements. Informed by a brief overview of U.S. gay liberation and family politics, and the theoretical and empirical work on the household division of labor by gender, this qualitative analysis of 34 Northern California families suggests that equitable practices—a pattern of equal sharing—among these lesbian coparents are the norm. Less frequently, the Rozzie and Harriet pattern of primary breadwinner/primary caregiver emerges, apparently in relation to differences in parents' relative income and their desire to offer children a "sense of family." The experience of this minority of couples reveals a division of labor that mimics modern heterosexual expectations and highlights the powerful negative effect of economic dependency on women who are full-time caregivers. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Tasker, F., & Golombok, S. (1995). Adults raised as children in lesbian families. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 65, 203-215.

Conducted a longitudinal study to examine the psychological well-being, family relationships, and the formation of friendships/intimate relationships among individuals raised in lesbian families. Twenty-five young adults (aged 17-35 yrs.; 8 males) from lesbian families and 21 aged-matched controls (12 males) raised by heterosexual single mothers were interviewed regarding their family and peer relationships, sexual orientations, and psychological adjustment. Subjects raised by lesbian mothers functioned well in adulthood in terms of psychological well-being and of family identity and relationships. The commonly held assumption that lesbian mothers will have lesbian daughters and gay sons was not supported. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Tasker, F., & Golombok, S. (1997). *Growing up in a lesbian family*. New York: Guilford Press.

(From the jacket) Presenting a . . . longitudinal study of 25 children raised in lesbian mother families, and a comparison group raised by single heterosexual mothers, the book lays out the developmental effects of growing up in a same-sex household and confronts a range of myths and stereotypes along the way. The book focuses on the follow-up interviews with grown-up children who took part in the study—all of whom were born to heterosexual partnerships but whose mothers later entered lesbian relationships. Shedding light on the quality of their family life, young adults share what it was like to grow up with a lesbian mother and her partner and discuss their level of awareness during childhood of growing up in a lesbian-headed home. Also considered are ways children from lesbian mother families integrate their family background with their school environment and cope with prejudice. [This book] will be welcomed by professionals, educators and students in psychology, social



work, and sociology; others interested in the long-term influences of childhood experiences on adult life; and readers in women's studies and lesbian/gay studies. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Tasker, E., & Golombok, S. (1998). The role of co-mothers in planned lesbian-led families. *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 2, 49-68.

Compared the role and involvement in parenting of co-mothers in 15 British lesbian mother families with the role of resident fathers in two different groups of heterosexual families (43 families where the study child was conceived through donor insemination, and 41 families where the child had been naturally conceived). There was a similar proportion of boys and girls in each group of families; average age across all 3 groups of children was 6 years. Birth mothers in all three types of families were administered a semistructured interview to assess the quality of family relationships. Questionnaire data on stress associated with parent-

ing were obtained from co-mothers and fathers, and the children completed the Family Relations Test. The results indicate that co-mothers played a more active role in daily caretaking than did most fathers. However, father-child and co-mother-child relationships were equally warm and affectionate in all three groups and there were no group differences for children's scores on the Family Relations Test or co-mothers/fathers' scores on the Parenting Stress Index. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Vanfraussen, K., Ponjaert-Kristoffersen, I., & Brewaeys, A. (2003). Family functioning in lesbian families created by donor insemination. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 73, 78-90.

In this study, we wanted to focus on parenting in relation to a specific feature of the lesbian donor insemination (DI) family, namely, the presence of a social mother. We wanted to investigate whether the lack of a biological connection influences the social parent-child interaction. To discover this, a compari-



son is made between both parents within the lesbian household. The second aim of this study is to explore the content of the role of the social parent in a lesbian family. A total of 24 lesbian families participated. The quantitative and qualitative data of this study on family functioning in lesbian DI families reveal that according to both parents and children, the quality of children's relationship with the social mother is comparable to that with the biological mother. Unlike fathers in heterosexual families, the lesbian social mother is as much involved in child activities as is the biological mother. Furthermore, the lesbian social mother has as much authority as does the father in heterosexual families. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2003 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Wainright, J. L., Russell, S. T., & Patterson, C. J. (2004). Psychosocial adjustment and school outcomes of adolescents with same-sex parents. *Child Development, 75*(6), Nov-Dec 2004, 1886-1898.

This study examined associations among family type (same-sex vs. opposite-sex parents); family and relationship variables; and the psychosocial adjustment, school outcomes, and romantic attractions and behaviors of adolescents. Participants included 44 12- to 18-year-old adolescents parented by same-sex couples and 44 same-aged adolescents parented by opposite-sex couples, matched on demographic characteristics and drawn from a national sample. Normative analyses indicated that, on measures of psychosocial adjustment and school outcomes, adolescents were functioning well, and their adjustment was not generally associated

with family type. Assessments of romantic relationships and sexual behavior were not associated with family type. Regardless of family type, adolescents whose parents described closer relationships with them reported better school adjustment. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Wright, J. M. (1998). *Lesbian stepfamilies: An ethnography of love*. New York: Harrington Park Press.

Lesbian Step Families: An Ethnography of Love explores five lesbian step families' definitions of the step parent role and how they accomplish parenting tasks, cope with homophobia, and define and interpret their experiences. An intensive feminist qualitative study, the book offers guidelines for counselors and lesbian step families for creating healthy, functioning family structures and environments. It is the first book to concentrate exclusively on lesbian step families rather than on lesbian mothering in general.

In *Lesbian Step Families: An Ethnography of Love*, you'll explore in detail the different kinds of step relationships that are developed and what factors may lead to the different types of step mothering in lesbian step families. The book helps you understand these relationships and parent roles through in-depth discussions of:

- how a step mother and legal mother who live together negotiate and organize parenting and homemaking tasks,
- how members of lesbian step families define and create the step mother role,
- strategies family members use to define and cope with oppression,
- how sexism is transmitted within the family and how mothering may limit and/or contribute to female liberation, and

- the opinions and viewpoints of the children of these families. The findings in *Lesbian Step Families: An Ethnography of Love* challenge traditional views of mothering and fathering as gender and biologically based activities; they indicate that lesbian step families model gender flexibility and that the mothers and step mothers share parenting—both traditional mothering and fathering—tasks. This allows the biological mother some freedom from motherhood as well as support in it. With insight such as this, you will be prepared to help a client, a loved one, or yourself develop and maintain healthy family relationships. (Reprinted with permission of Haworth Press Copyright © 1998. All rights reserved.)

Empirical Studies Generally Related to the Fitness of Lesbians and Gay Men as Parents

Groth, A. N., & Birnbaum, H. J. (1978). Adult sexual orientation and attraction to underage persons. *Archives of Sexual Behavior*, 7, 175-181.

Screened 175, 15- to 64-year-old males convicted of sexual assault against children with reference to their adult sexual orientation and the sex of their victims. The subjects divided fairly evenly into two groups based on whether they were sexually fixated exclusively on children or had regressed from peer relationships. Female children were victimized nearly twice as often as male children. All regressed offenders, whether their victims were male or female children, were heterosexual in their adult orientation. There were no examples of regression to child victims among peer-oriented, homosexual males. The possibility emerges that homosexuality and homosexual pedophilia may be mutually exclusive and that the adult heterosexual male constitutes a greater risk to the underage child than does the adult homosexual male. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Hooker, E. (1957). The adjustment of the male overt homosexual. *Journal of Projective Techniques*, 21, 17-31.

Thirty male homosexuals were matched with 30 heterosexual males for age, IQ, and education. Their Rorschachs, TATs, and MAPS were given to two Rorschach experts and a TAT and MAPS expert for ratings of adjustment. The protocols were also presented in pairs to the judges to see if they could distinguish the homosexual and heterosexual protocols. Agreement between judges of the adjustment ratings was fair, but the Rorschach experts could not discriminate between homosexual and heterosexual protocols any better than chance. The TAT and MAPS protocols of the homosexuals could be distinguished far better

than chance since nearly all the homosexual subjects gave at least one homosexual story. The two groups did not differ significantly in adjustment ratings. The author concludes: "1. Homosexuality as a clinical entity does not exist. Its forms are as varied as are those of heterosexuality. 2. Homosexuality may be a deviation in sexual pattern which is within the normal range, psychologically." (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Jenny, C., Roesler, T. A., & Poyer, K. L. (1994). Are children at risk for sexual abuse by homosexuals? *Pediatrics*, 94, 41-44.

Objective: To determine if recognizably homosexual adults are frequently accused of the sexual molestation of children. *Design:* Chart review of medical records of children evaluated for sexual abuse. *Setting:* Child sexual abuse clinic at a regional children's hospital. *Patients:* Patients were 352 children (276 girls and 76 boys) referred to a subspecialty clinic for the evaluation of suspected child sexual abuse. Mean age was 6.1 years (range, 7 months to 17 yrs.). Data collected. Charts were reviewed to determine the relationships of the children to the alleged offender, the sex of the offender, and whether or not the alleged offender was reported to be gay, lesbian, or bisexual. *Results:* Abuse was ruled out in 35 cases. Seventy-four children were allegedly abused by other children and teenagers less than 18 years old. In nine cases, an offender could not be identified. In the remaining 269 cases, two offenders were identified as being gay or lesbian. In 82% of cases (222/269), the alleged offender was a heterosexual partner of a close relative of the child. Using the data from our study, the 95% confidence limits of the risk children would identify recognizably homosexual adults as the potential abuser are from 0% to 3.1%. These limits are within current estimates of the prevalence of homosexuality in the general community. *Conclusions:* The children in the group studied were unlikely to have been molested by identifiably gay or lesbian people. (Reprinted with permission of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Copyright © 1994. All rights reserved.)



Thompson, N., McCandless, B., & Strickland, B. (1971). Personal adjustment of male and female homosexuals and heterosexuals. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 78, 237-240.

Compared the personal adjustment and psychological well-being of 127 male and 84 female homosexuals with 123 male and 94 female heterosexuals. Subjects were matched for sex, age, and education. Homosexuals did not differ in important ways from heterosexuals in defensiveness, personal adjustment, or self-confidence as measured by the adjective check list; or in self-evaluation as measured by a

semantic differential. Male homosexuals were less defensive and less self-confident ($p < .05$), while female homosexuals were more self-confident ($p < .05$) than their respective controls. Homosexuals were more self-concerned as there were more members of both homosexual groups who had or were undertaking psychotherapy. However, there were no adjustment differences in any group between those who had and had not experienced psychotherapy. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Reviews of Empirical Studies Specifically Related to Lesbian and Gay Parents and Their Children

Allen, K. R., & Demo, D. H. (1995). The families of lesbians and gay men: A new frontier in family research. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 57, 111-127.

Examined the extent to which the family relations of lesbians and gay men are integrated into the family literature by reviewing over 8,000 articles published between 1980 and 1993 in nine journals that publish family research. The review shows that research on lesbian and gay families is quite limited, and that, where these families have been studied, they have been problematized and their diversity has been overlooked. The authors describe and define lesbian and gay families, illustrating their diversity and challenging the neglect of this population in family studies. The authors direct researchers' attention toward a social ecologies model that incorporates the dynamics of family relationships. Theoretical implications of studying lesbian and gay families are discussed, and research directions to improve knowledge of these families and families in general are proposed. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Allen, M., & Burrell, N. (1996). Comparing the impact of homosexual and heterosexual parents on children: Meta-analysis of existing research. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 32, 19-35.

Courts determine custody and visitation on the basis of the "best interests of the child." Current judicial rulings in some jurisdictions reflect a bias against awarding custody or granting visitation rights to homosexual parents, favoring the heterosexual parent or heterosexual relative of the child(ren). Should the sexual orientation of the parent play a part in the determination of custody or visitation in order to

protect the child? This meta-analysis summarizes the available quantitative literature comparing the impact of heterosexual and homosexual parents, using a variety of measures, on the child(ren). The analyses examine parenting practices, the emotional well-being of the child, and the sexual orientation of the child. The results demonstrate no differences on any measures between the heterosexual and homosexual parents regarding parenting styles, emotional adjustment, and sexual orientation of the child(ren). In other words, the data fail to support the continuation of a bias against homosexual parents by any court. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Anderssen, N., Amlie, C., & Ytteroy, E. A. (2002). Outcomes for children with lesbian or gay parents: A review of studies from 1978 to 2000. *Scandinavian Journal of Psychology*, 43, 335-351.

Reviewed 23 empirical studies published between 1978 and 2000 on nonclinical children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers (one Belgian/Dutch, one Danish, three British, and 18 North American). Twenty studies reported on offspring of lesbian mothers, and three on offspring of gay fathers. The studies encompassed a total of 615 offspring (age range 1.5-44 yrs.) of lesbian mothers or gay fathers and 387 controls, who were assessed by psychological tests, questionnaires, or interviews. Seven types of outcomes were found to be typical: emotional functioning, sexual preference, stigmatization, gender role behavior, behavioral adjustment, gender identity, and cognitive functioning. Children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers did not systematically differ from other children on any of the outcomes. The studies indicate that children raised by lesbian women do not experience adverse outcomes compared with other children. The same holds for children raised by gay men, but more studies should be done. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Armesto, J. C. (2002). Developmental and contextual factors that influence gay fathers' parental competence: A review of the literature. *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, 3, 67-78.

This article reviews the existing literature on gay parenting using two theoretical frameworks: developmental and ecological. Findings suggest that the normal stressors of parenting are compounded for gay men because of their membership in a socially stigmatized group. Specifically, competent parenting in gay men appears to be influenced by the ability to come to terms with a homosexual identity and negotiate the ongoing stress associated with living in a homophobic and heterosexist society. The author discusses the theoretical implications of these findings and suggests areas for future research. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Belcastro, P. A., Gramlich, T., Nicholson, T., Price, J., & Wilson, R. (1993). A review of data-based studies addressing the effects of homosexual parenting on children's sexual and social functioning. *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage*, 20, 105-122.

Summarizes the results of a computer and manual search of the published literature focused on children raised in gay and lesbian households. Studies were selected on the basis of the following criteria: data-based, post-1975 publications; independent variable/homosexual parent; and dependent variable/some aspect of the child's sexual or social functioning. Includes 14 studies that met the criteria. Concludes that the published research database is too weak to support a definitive conclusion that there are no significant differences in children raised by lesbian mothers versus those raised by heterosexual mothers. (Copyright © 1995 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Bozett, F. W. (1989). Gay fathers: A review of the literature. In F. W. Bozett (Ed.), *Homosexuality and the family* (pp. 137-162). New York: Harrington Park Press.

Reviews the literature on gay fathers, including historical perspectives and statistical data. Studies of gay fathers and other groups, such as lesbian mothers and nongay fathers, are compared. While the paucity of literature and limitations of the research prevent definitive conclusions, a list of tentative generalizations is proposed. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Brewaeys, A., & Van Hall, E. V. (1997). Lesbian motherhood: The impact on child development and family functioning. *Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology*, 18, 1-16. No abstract available.

Gottman, J. S. (1990). Children of gay and lesbian parents. In F. W. Bozett & M. B. Sussman (Eds.), *Homosexuality and family relations* (pp. 177-196). New York: Harrington Park Press.

Reviews research literature on children of homosexual (HS) parents, including comparisons with children of heterosexual parents. Children of HS parents did not appear deviant in gender identity, sexual orientation, or social adjustment. Issues that emerged during their upbringing related more to society's rejection of homosexuality than to poor parent-child relationships. Most social adjustment problems occurred in both groups and were commonly related to family history of divorce. Results are supported by J. Schwartz's (unpublished manuscript) investigation of the above variables in adult-aged daughters in relation to mothers' sexual orientations, with a focus on role modeling theory. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Kirkpatrick, M. (1987). Clinical implications of lesbian mother studies. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 13, 201-211.

Studies have shown similarities between lesbian mothers and divorced heterosexual mothers in marital history, pregnancy history, child-rearing attitudes, and life-style. Motherhood was the most salient factor in both groups' identity. Lesbian mothers had more congenial relations with ex-spouses and included men more regularly in their children's lives. Coupled lesbians had greater economic and emotional resources and provided children with a richer family life than did mothers of either group living alone with children. Children benefited from group discussions about changes in their lives and in their mothers' sexual orientation. Case illustrations are presented. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Kleber, D. J., Howell, R. J., & Tibbits-Kleber, A. L. (1986). The impact of parental homosexuality in child custody cases: A review of the literature. *Bulletin of the American Academy of Psychiatry and Law*, 14, 81-87.

Reviews the literature on the impact of parental homosexuality in child custody cases. As a result of the relatively high rate of divorce in the United States and the increasing awareness that many parents (an estimated 1.5 million) are homosexual, the courts and divorce mediators have become actively involved in child custody placement decisions involving homosexual parents. While custody decisions have tended to reflect stereotyped beliefs or fears concerning the detrimental effects of homosexual parenting practices on child development, the research literature provides no evidence substantiating these fears. Several specific custody issues are discussed as well as social factors relevant to lesbian motherhood. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Parks, C. A. (1998). Lesbian parenthood: A review of the literature. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 68, 376-389.

Reviews the findings of lesbian family research published between 1980 and 1996. The research describes characteristics of lesbian families and challenges faced by these families in the context of heterosexist and homophobic societal attitudes. The research reveals lesbian parents and their children to be healthy, secure, and quite effective in negotiating the many challenges that accompany their stigmatized and minority status. Lesbian couples are confronted by an environment that disavows their unions, challenges their right and fitness to parent, and denies them basic civil and legal protections to individual and family security. Yet, they have succeeded in creating nurturing, egalitarian families in which they are bearing and raising well-functioning, well-adjusted, and socially tolerant children. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (1992). Children of lesbian and gay parents. *Child Development*, 63, 1025-1042.

Reviews research on the personal and social development of children of gay or lesbian parents (CGLP). Beginning with estimates of the numbers of such children, sociocultural, theoretical, and legal reasons for attention to their development are then outlined. In this context, studies on sexual identity, personal development, and social relationships among these children are reviewed. Evidence does not show that the development of CGLP is compromised significantly relative to that among children of heterosexual parents in comparable situations. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (1995b). Lesbian mothers, gay fathers, and their children. In A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson, (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay and bisexual identities over the lifespan: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 262-290). New York: Oxford University Press.

(From the chapter) considers some of the issues and perspectives relevant to research on lesbian and gay families with children / [presents] an overview of research on lesbian and gay parents, and . . . a review of research on children of lesbian and gay parents identifies some of the sources of diversity within lesbian and gay parenting communities / present research on those who became parents in the context of heterosexual relationships, before coming out as lesbian or gay / describe studies of lesbians who became parents after coming out [present] research on children born in the context of heterosexual relationships . . . followed by a description of new work with children born to or adopted by lesbian and gay parents. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (1997). Children of lesbian and gay parents. In T. Ollendick & R. Prinz (Eds.), *Advances in Clinical Child Psychology, Volume 19* (pp. 235-282). New York: Plenum Press.

Describes recent research on the personal and social development of children of lesbian and gay parents. Beginning with estimates of the numbers of such children, the author then outlines sociocultural, theoretical, and legal reasons that justify attention to their development. Research evidence is also presented on the sexual identity, personal development, and social relationships among these children, and on the mediating effects of divorce and adoption vs. biological birth. The author's own Bay Area Families Study, which examined the familial and individual adjustment of 4- to 9-year-old children born to versus adopted by lesbian mothers, is described. Results of this study show normal levels of maternal adjustment and personal esteem as well as normal social and personal development among children with lesbian mothers. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (1998). Family lives of children with lesbian mothers. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay and bisexual identities in families: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 154-176). New York: Oxford University Press.

In the present chapter, the focus will be children who were born after their mothers came out as lesbians. Research with these families is as yet quite new, but a number of findings similar to those reported for families of divorced lesbian mothers have been reported. The author presents research on lesbian mothers and considers findings about the psychosocial development and adjustment of children born to or adopted early in life by lesbian mothers. After discussing research findings to date, the author suggests some directions for further study and examines the existing research for evidence with regard to one issue of particular interest—the extent to which biological linkages are related to the structure of family lives in the families of the lesbian baby boom. The chapter concludes with a general discussion of what has been learned and what directions seem promising for further work. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (2000). Family relationships of lesbians and gay men. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 62, 1052- 1069.

Presents an overview of research on the family lives of lesbians and gay men. It is noted that the family lives of lesbian and gay people have been a source of controversy during the past decade. Despite prejudice and discrimination, lesbians and gay men have often succeeded in creating and sustaining family relationships. Research on same-gender couple relationships, parent—child relationships, and other family relationships are reviewed here. In general, the picture of lesbian and gay relationships emerging from this body of work is one of positive adjustment, even in the face of stressful conditions. Research is also beginning to address questions about individual differences among the family relationships of les-

bians and gay men. It is concluded that future work in this area has the potential to affect lesbian and gay lives, influence developmental and family theory, and inform public policies. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (2004). Gay fathers. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *The role of the father in child development* (4th ed.). New York: John Wiley. No abstract available.

Stacey, J., & Biblarz, T. J. (2001). (How) Does sexual orientation of parents matter? *American Sociological Review*, 65, 159-183.

Opponents of lesbian and gay parental rights claim that children with lesbian parents are at higher risk for a variety of negative outcomes. Yet most research in psychology concludes that there are no differences in developmental outcomes between children raised by lesbian parents and those raised by heterosexual parents. This analysis challenges this defensive conceptual framework and analyzes how heterosexism has hampered intellectual progress in the field. The authors discuss limitations in the definitions, samples, and analyses of the studies to date. Next they explore findings from 21 studies and demonstrate that researchers frequently downplay findings indicating differences regarding children's gender and sexual preferences and behavior that could stimulate important theoretical questions. A less defensive, more sociologically informed analytic framework is proposed for investigating these issues. The framework focuses on (1) whether selection effects produced by homophobia account for associations between parental sexual orientations and child outcomes; (2) the role of parental gender vis-à-vis sexual orientation in influencing children's gender development; and (3) the relationship between parental sexual orientations and children's sexual preferences and behaviors. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Tasker, F. (1999). Children in lesbian-led families—A review. *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 4, 153-166.

Research on non-clinical samples of children raised in lesbian-led families formed after parental divorce, together with studies of children raised in families planned by a single lesbian mother or lesbian couple, suggest that growing up in a lesbian-led family does not have negative effects on key developmental outcomes. In many ways family life for children growing up in lesbian-led families is similar to that experienced by children in heterosexual families. In other respects there are important distinctions, such as different types of family forms and the impact of social stigma on the family, that may influence how clinicians approach therapeutic work with children in lesbian mother families. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Victor, S. B., & Fish, M. C. (1995). Lesbian mothers and their children: A review for school psychologists. *School Psychology Review*, 24, 456-479.

Reviews 56 studies (published from 1971 to 1994) on lesbian mothers and their children. Three main family patterns and some common misconceptions about these families are addressed. Research suggests there are no differences between children of lesbians and children of heterosexuals with regard to their emotional health, interpersonal relationships, sexual orientation, or gender development. Psychological adjustment and parenting skills were not significantly different for lesbian and heterosexual mothers. Implications for school psychology practice and training are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Reviews of Empirical Studies Generally Related to the Fitness of Lesbians and Gay Men as Parents

Amato, P. R. (2001). Children of divorce in the 1990s: An update of the Amato and Keith (1991) meta-analysis. *Journal of Family Psychology, 15*, 355-370.

The present study updates the P. R. Amato and B. Keith (1991) meta-analysis of children and divorce with a new analysis of 67 studies published in the 1990s. Compared with children with continuously married parents, children with divorced parents continued to score significantly lower on measures of academic achievement, conduct, psychological adjustment, self-concept, and social relations. After controlling for study characteristics, curvilinear trends with respect to decade of publication were present for academic achievement, psychological well-being, self-concept, and social relations. For these outcomes, the gap between children with divorced and married parents decreased during the 1980s and increased again during the 1990s. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2005 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Amato, P. R., & Keith, B. (1991). Parental divorce and the well-being of children: A meta-analysis. *Psychological Bulletin, 110*, 26-46.

Meta-analysis involved 92 studies that compared children living in divorced single-parent families with children living in continuously intact families on measures of well-being. Children of divorce scored lower than children in intact families across a variety of outcomes, with the median effect size being 14 of a standard deviation. For some outcomes, methodologically sophisticated studies yielded weaker effect sizes than did other studies. In addition, for some outcomes, more recent studies yielded weaker effect sizes than did studies carried

out during earlier decades. Some support was found for theoretical perspectives emphasizing parental absence and economic disadvantage, but the most consistent support was found for a family conflict perspective. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2005 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Cochran, S. D. (2001). Emerging issues in research on lesbians' and gay men's mental health: Does sexual orientation really matter? *American Psychologist, 56*, 931-947.

Theoretical writings and research suggest that the onset, course, treatment, and prevention of mental disorders among lesbians and gay men differ in important ways from those of other individuals. Recent improvements in studies of sexual orientation and mental health morbidity have enabled researchers to find some elevated risk for stress-sensitive disorders that is generally attributed to the harmful effects of antihomosexual bias. Lesbians and gay men who seek mental health services must find culturally competent care within systems that may not fully address their concerns. The affirmative therapies offer a model for intervention, but their efficacy and effectiveness need to be empirically documented. Although methodological obstacles are substantial, failure to consider research questions in this domain overlooks the welfare of individuals who may represent a sizable minority of those accessing mental health services annually. (Reprinted with permission of the American Psychological Association, Inc. Copyright © 2001. All rights reserved.)

Finkelhor, D., & Russell, D. (1984). Women as perpetrators: Review of the evidence. In D. Finkelhor (Ed.), *Child sexual abuse: New theory and research* (pp. 171-187). New York: Free Press. No abstract available.

Freedman, M. (1971). *Homosexuality and psychological functioning*. Belmont, CA: Brooks/Cole.
No abstract available.

Gillis, J. R. (1998). Cultural heterosexism and the family. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities in the family: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 249-269). New York: Oxford University Press.

(From the chapter) This chapter cites modern examples of cultural heterosexism, reviews some longitudinal data suggesting changes in attitudes toward lesbian, bisexual, and gay people, and offers some direction for research aimed at reducing cultural heterosexism. Employment rights, beliefs about the morality, legality, and cause of homosexuality are also included. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Gonsiorek, J. (1991). The empirical basis for the demise of the illness model of homosexuality. In J. C. Gonsiorek & J. D. Weinrich (Eds.), *Homosexuality: Research implications for public policy* (pp. 115-136). Newbury Park, CA: Sage.

(From the chapter) How can one understand the pathology or nonpathology of homosexuality if one does believe in the reasonableness of psychiatric diagnosis? My perspective is that psychiatric diagnosis is legitimate, but its application to homosexuality is erroneous and invalid because there is no empirical justification for it. The diagnosis of homosexuality as an illness is bad science. Therefore, whether one accepts or rejects the plausibility of the diagnostic enterprise in psychiatry, there is no basis for viewing homosexuality as a disease or as indicative of psychological disturbance. It is my conclusion that the issue of whether homosexuality per se is a sign of psychopathology, psychological maladjustment, or disturbance has been answered, and the answer is that it is not. The studies reviewed and

the findings in this chapter ought to be the touchstone of further theory and research in the study of homosexuality, because they represent the most carefully designed, reliable, valid, and objective measures of adjustment in the armamentarium of the behavioral sciences. Although it is clear that homosexuality is not in and of itself related to psychopathology, there are persistent suggestions that the particular stresses endured by gay men and lesbians, especially in adolescence and young adulthood, may cause an upsurge in attempted suicide and perhaps chemical abuse, perhaps temporary or perhaps in a segment of homosexuals. They do not suggest the inherent psychopathology of homosexuality; rather they suggest additional especially stressful developmental events in the lives of some gay men and lesbians that require theoretical explication. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Hart, M., Roback, H., Tittler, B., Weitz, L., Walston, B., & McKee, E. (1978). Psychological adjustment of nonpatient homosexuals: Critical review of the research literature. *Journal of Clinical Psychiatry*, 39, 604-608.

Reviews research studies comparing adjustment levels of nonpatient homosexuals and heterosexuals. The paper focuses on (a) methodological problems in research on homosexuality; (b) studies comparing adjustment levels of male homosexuals and male heterosexuals, effeminate and noneffeminate male homosexuals, and female homosexuals and female heterosexuals; (c) the relationship between degree of homosexuality and adjustment; (d) homosexual subculture; and (e) the relationship between homosexuality and psychopathology. It is concluded that findings to date have not demonstrated that the homosexual individuals are any less psychologically adjusted than their heterosexual counterparts. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Herek, G. M. (1995). Psychological heterosexism in the United States. In A. R. D'Augelli & C. J. Patterson (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities over the lifespan: Psychological perspectives*. New York: Oxford University Press.

(From the chapter) uses social science theory and empirical research to describe and explain psychological heterosexism in the US today / addresses the attitudinal and belief components of psychological heterosexism, with special attention to cognitive and motivational processes / behavioral aspects of psychological heterosexism—specifically, acts of violence against lesbians and gay men—are discussed / the consequences of psychological heterosexism are considered. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Herek, G. M. (1998). Bad science in the service of stigma: A critique of the Cameron group's survey studies. In G. M. Herek (Ed.), *Stigma and sexual orientation: Understanding prejudice against lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals*. (pp. 223-255). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, Inc.

Discusses the work by psychologist Paul Cameron and his research group, which has argued that homosexuals threaten public health, social order, and the well-being of children. This chapter critically reviews the principal source of data for the Cameron group's publications and identifies six serious errors in their sampling techniques, survey methodology, and interpretation of results. This chapter also uses objective indicators to show that the Cameron group's survey results have had no discernible impact on scientific research. They have been published in journals with low levels of professional prestige and scientific impact, and have been cited in few other research articles, most of which criticized their methodology. It is concluded that the Cameron group's surveys are an example of bad science that has been used to perpetuate the stigma historically associated with homosexuality. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2005 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, and mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129(5), 674-697.

In this article the author reviews research evidence on the prevalence of mental disorders in lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals (LGBs) and shows, using meta-analyses, that LGBs have a higher prevalence of mental disorders than heterosexuals. The author offers a conceptual framework for understanding this excess in prevalence of disorder in terms of minority stress—explaining that stigma, prejudice, and discrimination create a hostile and stressful social environment that causes mental health problems. The model describes stress processes, including the experience of prejudice events, expectations of rejection, hiding and concealing, internalized homophobia, and ameliorative coping processes. This conceptual framework is the basis for the review of research evidence, suggestions for future research directions, and exploration of public policy implications. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2005 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Money, J., & Ehrhardt, A. A. (1972). *Man and woman, boy and girl: The differentiation and dimorphism of gender identity from conception to maturity*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Presents human and animal experimental and clinical findings from genetics, endocrinology, neurosurgery, psychology, and anthropology on sexual differentiation. In addition to physical abnormalities due to genetic and hormonal influences, environmental influences on the differentiation of gender identity and on erotic behavior are discussed. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Reiss, B. F. (1980). Psychological tests in homosexuality. In J. Marmor (Ed.), *Homosexual behavior: A modern reappraisal* (pp. 296-311). New York: Basic Books. No abstract available.

Stein, T. S. (1993). Overview of new developments in understanding homosexuality. *Review of Psychiatry*, 12, 9-40. No abstract available.

Sarafino, E. P. (1979). An estimate of nationwide incidence of sexual offenses against children. *Child Welfare*, 58, 127-134.

Complete data are lacking for accurately estimating sexual offenses against children on a national scale, but projections from statistics available indicate the magnitude of the social problem. (*Reprinted with permission of the Child Welfare League of America. Copyright © 1979. All rights reserved.*)



Legal Reviews

American Civil Liberties Union Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. (2002). *Too high a price: The case against restricting gay parenting*. New York: American Civil Liberties Union.

Too High a Price: The Case Against Restricting Gay Parenting is a 118-page paperback book that provides a comprehensive analysis of legal and policy issues regarding gay parenting, detailing the many restrictions and biases against gay parents that ultimately disrupt families and hurt children. The book, written to support the ACLU's case challenging Florida's anti-gay adoption ban, examines in depth the social science evidence, the legal arguments, and the public policy considerations regarding lesbian and gay parents. Includes summaries of 22 social science studies on gay parenting released between 1981 and 1998, statements from several mainstream national child advocacy and psychological organizations, and profiles of several gay parents and their children. (Reprinted with permission of the American Civil Liberties Union. Copyright © 2005. All rights reserved.)

Appell, A. R. (2003). Recent developments in lesbian and gay adoption law. *Adoption Quarterly*, 7(1), 73-84.

Discusses the recent developments in lesbian and gay adoption law. While several states have resolved questions relating to lesbian and gay adoption in the past few years, a couple of states have seen challenges to what appeared to be the status quo. The author starts with the cases in which courts of appeals have ruled on the permissibility of adoption by same-sex couples or single lesbians and turns next to the unresolved challenges. Nationwide, there appears to have been little political or legal resolution regarding the desirability of expansive notions of family. Yet the issue is on both judicial and legislative radar, playing out most frequently in the context of the relationship between marriage and adoption. Legislatures may have the ultimate say

and can give relatively definitive answers to these questions: California, Connecticut, and Vermont affirmatively permit same-sex couples to sanction their families; while Florida, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Utah have answered to the contrary. In the meantime, constitutional challenges similar to the one in Florida may be brought in Mississippi, Oklahoma and, perhaps, Utah, while same-sex adoption remains uncertain in states without determinate judicial or legislative rules regarding co-parent adoption. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Falk, P. J. (1989). Lesbian mothers: Psychosocial assumptions in family law. *American Psychologist*, 44, 941-947.

Discrimination persists in courts' consideration of lesbian mothers' petitions for custody of their children. Courts often have assumed that lesbian women are emotionally unstable or unable to assume a maternal role. They also often have assumed that their children are likely to be emotionally harmed, subject to molestation, impaired in gender role development, or themselves homosexual. None of these assumptions are supported by extant research and theory. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Falk, P. J. (1994). The gap between psychosocial assumptions and empirical research in lesbian-mother child custody cases. In A. E. Gottfried & A. W. Gottfried (Eds.), *Redefining families: Implications for children's development* (pp. 131-156). New York: Plenum.

(From the chapter) a rapidly growing and highly consistent body of empirical work has failed to identify significant differences between lesbian mothers and their heterosexual counterparts or the children raised by these groups / researchers have been unable to establish empirically that detriment results to children from being raised by lesbian

mothers / thus, it appears that there is a considerable gap between many of the assumptions on which legal decision makers have traditionally based their [child custody] decisions and the corresponding empirical and theoretical literature on lesbian mothers and their children / the major implication for legal decision makers is that they should focus less or not at all on the sexual orientation of a potential custodian and more on other factors commonly associated with the best-interests-of-the-child standard, such as the quality of the parent-child relationship. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Hitchens, D. J., & Kirkpatrick, M. J. (1985). Lesbian mothers/gay fathers. In D. H. Schetky & E. P. Benedek (Eds.), *Emerging issues in child psychiatry and the law* (pp. 115-125). New York: Brunner-Mazel. No abstract available.

Patterson, C. J., Fulcher, M., & Wainright, J. (2002). Children of lesbian and gay parents: Research, law, and policy. In B. L. Bottoms, M. B. Kovera, & B. D. McAuliff (Eds.), *Children, social science and the law* (pp. 176-199). New York: Cambridge University Press.

(From the chapter) Provides an overview of the legal and policy terrain for children of lesbian and gay parents in the US today, with an eye to the diversity of issues and families involved. This is followed by a discussion of the research literature on children of lesbian and gay parents, and by recommendations for changes in law and policy that would benefit children in lesbian- and gay-parented families. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2003 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J., & Redding, R. E. (1996). Lesbian and gay families with children: Implications of social science research for policy. *Journal of Social Issues*, 52(3), 29-50.

In this paper, we provide an overview of variability across jurisdictions in family law relevant to lesbian and gay parents and their children, showing that some courts have been negatively disposed to these families. We summarize recent research findings suggesting that lesbian and gay parents are as likely as are heterosexual parents to provide home environments that support positive outcomes among children. Research findings suggest that unless and until the weight of evidence can be shown to have shifted, parental sexual orientation should be considered irrelevant to disputes involving child custody, visitation, foster care, and adoption. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Wardle, L. D. (1997). The potential impact of homosexual parenting on children. *University of Illinois Law Review*, 833-919. No abstract available.

Case Studies and Popular Works Related to Lesbian and Gay Parenting

Agbayewa, M. O. (1984). Fathers in the newer family forms: Male or female? *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry*, 29, 402-406.

Current social trends have produced significant changes in the family system, with the emergence of newer family forms such as single-parent and homosexual families. The example of a 6-year-old boy in a female homosexual family is used as the basis of a discussion of theories of sex-role development. The literature on father absence and the converging roles of father and mother, and of men and women, is reviewed. It is suggested that women may function as fathers in the newer family forms. Longitudinal studies of children in these newer family forms are needed to define the implications of these social changes for personality development theories and mental health care delivery. (French abstract) (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Alpert, H. (1988). *We are everywhere: Writings by and about lesbian parents*. Freedom, CA: The Crossing Press. No abstract available.

Arnup, K. (Ed.) (1995). *Lesbian parenting: Living with pride and prejudice*. Charlottetown PEI, Canada: Gynergy Press. No abstract available.

Barret, R. L., & Robinson, B. E. (1990). *Gay fathers*. Lexington MA: Lexington Books.

Addresses the complexity of gay and lesbian families using narratives reported by gay and lesbian parents and their children. Discusses research into case law and psychological literature and chronicles the legal and social history of lesbian and gay parenting. A useful resource with information of value not only for gay men and lesbian women but also for judges,

lawyers, therapists, and medical personnel.

(Copyright © 1995 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Bozett, F. W. (1987). Children of gay fathers. In F. W. Bozett (Ed.), *Gay and lesbian parents* (pp. 39-57). New York: Praeger.

(From the chapter) child custody / sexual orientation and lifestyle on their children / custodial gay fathers / children's reactions to having a gay father / social control strategies / boundary control influencing factors / mutuality / father's reactions / protective strategies / role modeling / children's development of sexual identity / homonegative reactions of children. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Clausen, J. (1985). *Sinking stealing*. Trumansburg, New York: The Crossing Press.

No abstract available.

Galluccio, J., Galluccio, M., & Groff, D. M. (2002). *An American Family*. New York: St. Martins Press.

No abstract available.

Green, J. (1999). *The velveteen father: An unexpected journey to parenthood*. New York: Ballantine Books.

No abstract available.

Howey, N., & Samuels, E. (Eds.) (2000). *Out of the ordinary: Essays on growing up with lesbian, gay, and transgender parents*. New York: St. Martins Press.

No abstract available.

Jullion, J. (1985). *Long way home: The odyssey of a lesbian mother and her children*. San Francisco: Cleis Press.

No abstract available.

Mager, D. (1975). Faggot father. In K. Jay & A. Young (Eds.), *After you're out* (pp. 128-134). New York: Links Books. No abstract available.

Martin, D., & Lyon, P. (1972). *Lesbian woman*. San Francisco: Glide Publications. No abstract available.

Morgen, K. B. (1995). *Getting Simon: Two gay doctors' journey to fatherhood*. New York: Bramble Books.

Two Gay Doctors' Journey to Fatherhood chronicles the story of psychologist Ken Morgen and his partner of 15 years, family practitioner Sam Westrick, as they try to create a family. Although the lesbian baby boom had been going on for some years prior to the Morgen–Westrick's experiences, family building for gay male couples at the time this book was written was a fairly new idea. Most gay couples up until the early '90's had children in marriages which most often eventually ended in divorce. After a couple of dramatic false starts in which they were left in the delivery room without the baby they expected to take home, Morgen and Westrick went on an obsessive and tireless search to find a birth-mother, whether to accomplish an adoption by conventional means or using her as a surrogate mother. The roller-coaster of a ride as they meet a variety of women of varying degrees of mental health, pregnancy and honesty, makes *Getting Simon*—in the words of one critic—"...a page turner." Eventually, the couple succeeds in meeting "Ms. Right," but not without a twist of fate that stuns the reader with its irony. Ken Morgen wrote this deeply personal and revealing memoir not only as a testimonial to his faith in the possibility of two men having a baby, but also to the success gay couples can have in creating families if they want to badly enough. In the final chapter is a "How To..." guide for those who would like to follow their path. (*Reprinted with permission of Kenneth B. Morgen. Copyright © 1995. All rights reserved.*)

Osman, S. (1972). My stepfather is a she. *Family Process*, 11, 209-218.

Presents a case study of family therapy conducted with a lesbian couple and their two sons. Therapy was initiated around the acting-out behavior of the oldest son (15 years old), which the boy attempted to blame on his discovery of his mother's lesbianism. Suggests that the nontraditional structure of the family was not a direct contributor to the family dynamics. Observes that the issue of homosexuality was in the background for all involved. Clinicians are advised to be aware of their own biases within the current cultural matrix. (Copyright © 1995 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Perreault, J. (1975). Lesbian mother. In K. Jay & A. Young (Eds.), *After you're out* (pp. 125-127). New York: Links Books. No abstract available.

Perrin, E. C. (2002). *Sexual orientation in child and adolescent health care*. New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers.

Integrates a variety of issues and information regarding sexuality and sexual orientation that may be useful in the medical treatment of children and adolescents and their families. This text features initiatives to improve the process of clinical care for gay and lesbian individuals and their families, as well as the community as a whole; common scenarios encountered in clinical practice, along with a discussion of their meaning and care; and explicit suggestions for child health professionals to direct efforts to change the context of medical education. This book is intended to be a resource for child health care professionals, including pediatricians, family physicians, nurses, physician's assistants, pediatric psychologists, child psychiatrists, and social workers. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Pollack, S., & Vaughn, J. (Eds.). (1987). *Politics of the heart: A lesbian parenting anthology*. Ithaca, NY: Firebrand Books. No abstract available.

Rafkin, L. (Ed.). (1990). *Different mothers: Sons and daughters of lesbians talk about their lives*. Pittsburgh: Cleis Press. No abstract available.

Savage, D. (2000). *The kid: What happened after my boyfriend and I decided to go get pregnant: An adoption story*. New York: Plume. No abstract available.

Schulenberg, J. (1985). *Gay parenting: A complete guide for gay men and lesbians with children*. New York: Anchor Books.

A guide to help gay men and lesbian women with issues of being gay or lesbian and a parent. Draws from interviews with lesbian and gay parents and their families. Issues covered are: coming out to your children, co-parenting, artificial insemination, adoption and foster parenting, and custody and visitation. Also includes listing of other resources: support groups, legal, counseling and health services, religious organizations, gay/lesbian hotlines, and an extensive bibliography on lesbian and gay parenting. (Copyright © 1995 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Weeks, R. B., Derdeyn, A. P., & Langman, M. (1975). Two cases of children of homosexuals. *Child Psychiatry and Human Development*, 6, 26-32.

Reviews the literature with reference to parental attitudes related to homosexuality, sex-role typing, and object choice. Two cases of children of opposite-sexed homosexual parents are presented with projective testing indicating difficulties with gender role identity. It is suggested that the manifestation of sexual conflict in these homosexual parents expressed in attitudes and behavior toward the child is not unique

and does not differ significantly from that of the heterosexual parent who has sexual conflicts. Gathering of more long-term data is recommended. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Wells, J. (Ed.). (1997). *Lesbians raising sons*. Los Angeles: Alyson Books.

Lesbians Raising Sons is an anthology of first person writings examining the ideas of manhood, of motherhood, of lesbians raising male children in yesterday's and today's world. Divided into three segments, the book takes an unflinching and entirely new look at mothering: "New Lessons" examines the way in which sons of lesbians grow up to be different men; "Making a Family" looks at family constructs and "Facing Losses" reveals the heart-breaking reality that many women have had to confront when their families were threatened by homophobic courts and traditions. *Lesbians Raising Sons* was a finalist for the coveted Lambda Literary Award, and informs prospective parents, educators, social workers, and anyone interested in family dynamics. (Reprinted with permission of Jess Wells. Copyright © 2005. All rights reserved.)

Weston, K. (1991). *Families we choose: Lesbians, gays, kinship*. New York: Columbia University Press.

(From the cover) In recent decades gay men and lesbians have increasingly portrayed themselves as people who seek not only to maintain ties with blood and adoptive relatives but also to establish families of their own. In *Families We Choose*, Kath Weston draws upon fieldwork and interviews to explore the ways gay men and lesbians are constructing their own notions of kinship by drawing on the symbolism of love, friendship, and biology. She presents interviewees' stories of coming out and of their subsequent relations with straight families. She also discusses changes in gay communities that have helped shape contemporary discourse about the gay family. Finally, she addresses the political implications of chosen families. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Theoretical and Conceptual Examinations Related to Lesbian and Gay Parenting

Bigner, J. J., & Bozett, F. W. (1990). Parenting by gay fathers. In F. W. Bozett & M. B. Sussman (Eds.), *Homosexuality and family relations* (pp. 155-176). New York: Harrington Park Press.

Suggests that the process of identity development for homosexual (HS) fathers requires a reconciliation of two polar extremes. Since each identity (heterosexual and HS) essentially is unacceptable to the opposite culture, the task for these men is to integrate both identities into the cognitive class called gay father. Discussion focuses on motivations for fatherhood, the sociological hypothesis of low status integration for gay fathers, relationships between gay fathers and their children, parenting abilities, and issues of disclosure. Implications for educators, family law professionals, and therapists are examined, as well as ramifications for HS men who serve in caretaking roles. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2004 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Jones, B. M., & MacFarlane, K. (Eds.). (1980). *Sexual abuse of children: Selected readings*. Washington, DC: National Center on Child Abuse & Neglect.

Selected readings on various aspects of child sexual abuse and treatment of abused children and their parents are provided for use as a resource for professionals and concerned citizens interested in community treatment programs. Topics addressed include developmental sexuality, the sexually abused child in the emergency room, venereal disease in children, reactions of the child and family to sexual abuse, literature concerning incest, the nature and treatment of male sex offenders, medical-legal aspects of sexual acts against children, humanistic treatment of

father-daughter incest, means of advocating for sexually abused children in the criminal justice system, a clinical view of sexually abused children, use of art therapy in the diagnosis and treatment of sexually abused children, child prostitution and child pornography, family and couple interactional patterns in cases of father-daughter incest, adult sexual orientation and attraction to underage persons, sexual misuse and the family, writings by victims of incest, and aspects of prevention and protection. Appendices include hospital protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of child sexual abuse, guidelines for parents concerning child sexual abuse, and a directory of child sexual abuse treatment programs. (Reprinted with permission of the National Clearinghouse on Childhood Abuse and Neglect. Copyright © 1980. All rights reserved.)

Martin, A. (1993). *The lesbian and gay parenting handbook: Creating and raising our families*. New York: HarperCollins. No abstract available.

Martin, A. (1998). Clinical issues in psychotherapy with lesbian-, gay-, and bisexual-parented families. In C. J. Patterson & A. R. D'Augelli (Eds.), *Lesbian, gay, and bisexual identities in families: Psychological perspectives* (pp. 270-291). New York: Oxford University Press.

(From the chapter) Families parented by lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals seek psychotherapy for a variety of difficulties that have nothing specifically to do with their sexual orientation. Yet they also have unique issues, circumstances, and problems that may be the focus of treatment or that may form the lens through which other problems are experienced. It behooves the therapist to become familiar with the myriad issues that are specific to such families in order to work in an ethical and effective manner. This chapter considers questions of family membership as they apply in lesbian- and gay-headed homes. How is it determined who is and who is not a member of such a family? Next, issues

of families with heterosexual beginnings are discussed. Parents who had children after identifying themselves as gay or lesbian, including the influence on family dynamics of the complicated legal and social pressures with which these families are coping, are addressed. Clinical examples from the author's practice are cited. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

McCandlish, B. (1987). Against all odds: Lesbian mother family dynamics. In F. W. Bozett (Ed.), *Gay and lesbian parents* (pp. 23-38). New York: Praeger.

(From the chapter) lesbian family formation / psychotherapeutic treatment of lesbian mother families / family dynamics / developmental changes / enormous obstacles in custody battles artificial insemination / biological mother / nonbiological parents / legal difficulties / psychiatric problems / gender dysfunction. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (1994b). Lesbian and gay couples considering parenthood: An agenda for research, service, and advocacy. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services*, 1, 33-55.

When Americans reflect on what matters most to them, they often point to relationships with families and children. Historically, lesbian and gay Americans have faced legal, economic, and other forms of discrimination against their family relationships in general, and against their relationships with children in particular. Despite this history of discrimination, however, lesbians and gay men continue to form families, and many either are or wish to become parents. In this paper, I discuss special needs of lesbian and gay couples that are considering parenthood, describe innovative services that have been developed to meet these needs, and identify directions for future research, service, and advocacy. Much work remains to be done before lesbian and gay Americans will be

able to seek parenthood unencumbered by the burdens of prejudice, discrimination, and institutionalized heterosexism. (Reprinted with permission of the Haworth Press Inc. Copyright © 1994. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J. (1994c). Lesbian and gay families. *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 3, 62-64.

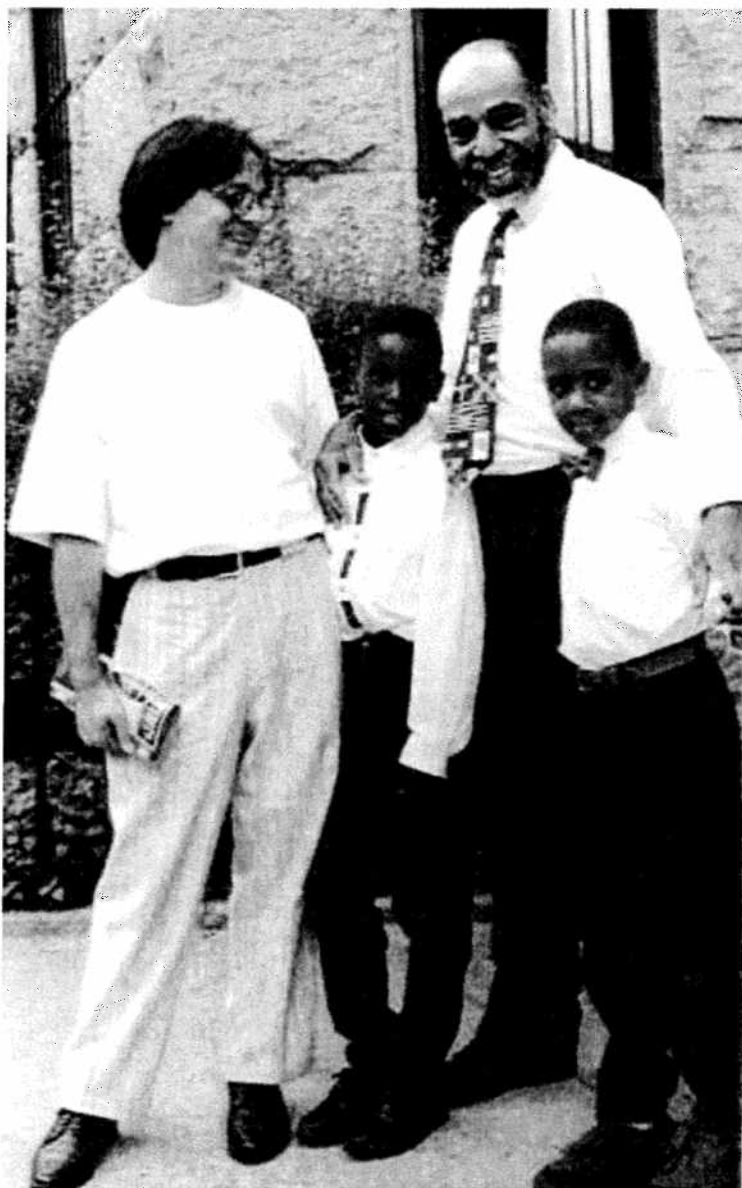
Outlines some of the principal issues and findings concerning lesbian and gay (LAG) families in the areas of individuals' families of origin, couple relationships, and LAG parenthood. Issues addressed include coming out, the similarities and differences between LAG couples and heterosexual couples in their relationships and in parenting, and the problems that LAG family members experience within their heterosexual families. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Patterson, C. J., & Chan, R. W. (1996). Gay fathers and their children. In R. P. Cabaj & T. S. Stein (Eds.), *Textbook of homosexuality and mental health* (pp. 371-393). Washington, DC: American Psychiatric Press, Inc.

(From the chapter) gay fatherhood has emerged into public awareness and brought questions / who are gay fathers, and how do they become parents / what kind of parents do gay men make, and how do their children develop / what special challenges and stresses do gay fathers and their children face in daily life, and how do they cope with them / what can acquaintance with gay fathers and their children offer to the understanding of parenthood, child development, and family life / although research literatures bearing on such questions are quite new and relatively sparse, existing studies address some issues raised by the existence of gay fathers. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

Pennington, S. (1987). Children of lesbian mothers. In F. W. Bozett (Ed.), *Gay and lesbian parents* (pp. 58-74). New York: Praeger.

(From the chapter) normalcy of these children / sex-role socialization / gender identity / accomplishment of developmental tasks / intelligence / reaction to father absence / parental separation and divorce marital / parenting status / disclosure and its ramifications / relationship issues / custody / societal attitudes in general / implications for professionals / suggestions for research. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)



Perrin, E. C. (1998). Children whose parents are lesbian or gay. *Contemporary Pediatrics*, 15, 113-130. No abstract available.

Perrin, E. C., & the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2002). Technical report: Coparent or second-parent adoption by same-sex parents. *Pediatrics*, 109, 341-344.

A growing body of scientific literature demonstrates that children who grow up with one or two gay and/or lesbian parents fare as well in emotional, cognitive, social, and sexual functioning as do children whose parents are heterosexual.

Children's optimal development seems to be influenced more by the nature of the relationships and interactions within the family unit than by the particular structural form it takes. (PsycINFO Database Record. Copyright © 2002 by the American Psychological Association. All rights reserved.)

OTHER RESOURCES

APA Amicus Briefs

For full text of APA amicus briefs in lesbian, gay, and bisexual cases, see
<http://www.apa.org/pi/lgbc/policy/amicusbriefs.html>.

In Re. Adoption of Luke, 640 N.W.2d 374

Brief Filed: 9/01

Court: Nebraska Supreme Court

Year of Decision: 2002

Issue: Whether second parent adoptions must be denied when the co-parents are gay or lesbian

Facts: The case is an adoption proceeding commenced by the lesbian partner of the child's natural mother. The child was conceived by artificial insemination from an anonymous donor. The biological father was unknown and not a party to the action. The partner sought to adopt the child ("Luke") so that both she and the natural mother could be his legal parents. The trial court denied the adoption because of its interpretation of Nebraska law. The court observed that "everyone with the potential to successfully parent a child in foster care or adoption should be entitled to a fair and equal consideration regardless of sexual orientation or differing lifestyles." However, the court ruled that the laws of Nebraska require otherwise. The court read the Nebraska statutes as not allowing a non-married partner to adopt the child of that person's partner, no matter how qualified they are to be an adoptive parent. The case was appealed to the Nebraska Supreme Court.

APA's Position: APA's brief argued that research and clinical experience indicate that when children have been raised by lesbian couples, adoption by the second parent is generally beneficial for the child's social and psychological development and therefore consistent with the child's best interests. The brief also provided research to indicate that parents' sexu-

al orientation does not adversely affect their children or their parenting.

Result: The Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed denial of the second-parent adoption. The court premised its decision on a strict construction of the Nebraska adoption statute.

Boswell v. Boswell

Brief Filed: 7/98

Court: Court of Appeals of Maryland

Year of Decision: 1998

Issue: Whether a gay father may be denied overnight visitation with his children and visitations in the presence of his male partner

Facts: In a custody hearing, the trial court had restricted the former husband's visitation with his children, prohibiting overnight visitation, the presence of the father's male partner, and the presence of "anyone having homosexual tendencies or such persuasions, male or female, or with anyone that the father may be living with in a non-marital relationship." The restrictions were not requested or advocated by any partner or witness in the case. The Court of Special Appeals of Maryland ruled that the restrictions were an abuse of discretion by the trial court judge and vacated that aspect of the decision. The mother appealed to the Court of Appeals of Maryland (the highest state court).

APA's Position: APA submitted an amicus brief with the National Association of Social Workers on behalf of the respondent father. The brief asserted that: (1) homosexuality is not a mental disorder; (2) gay men and lesbians have comparable parenting skills to heterosexuals; (3) gay fathers and lesbian mothers do not present a heightened danger of sexual abuse; (4) therefore, gay men and lesbians are fit parents to the same extent as heterosexuals; (5) children raised by gay or lesbian parents do not differ psychologically and socially from children raised by heterosexual parents; (6) research does not indicate that exposure of

children to their father's same-sex partner generally has negative effects and there is evidence that involvement of the partner in the children's lives may, in fact, be beneficial to them.

Result: The Maryland Court of Appeals affirmed, finding that the divorce court's order was an abuse of discretion. The court followed other jurisdictions in requiring a showing of actual or potential harm to the children before a parent's visitation may be restricted based on his or her nonmarital relationship, whether homosexual or heterosexual. Additionally, the trial court must make specific findings based on sound evidence rather than basing a ruling to restrict visitation on stereotypes or bias.

DeLong v. DeLong, Case No. 80637
(Sup. Ct. Mo. 1998)

Brief Filed: 6/98

Court: Supreme Court of Missouri

Year of Decision: 1998

Issue: Whether a lesbian mother may be denied custody solely on the basis of her sexual orientation rather than on the basis of what is in the best interests of the child

Facts: A Missouri trial court denied a lesbian mother custody of her daughter solely on the basis of her sexual orientation in accordance with prior appellate court decisions finding lesbian and gay parents per se unfit to have custody of a child. The Missouri appellate court rejected this per se rule and held that all child custody decisions involving a gay or lesbian parent should be decided according to the same standard used in evaluating the fitness of heterosexual parents—an individualized determination of the child's best interest. The father appealed the decision, and the Supreme Court of Missouri agreed to review the decision.

APA's Position: APA filed an amicus brief summarizing the existing research on children raised by lesbian and gay parents and the absence of any demonstrable connection between a person's sexual orientation and his or her fitness as a parent. The brief asserted that: (1) the appellate court's ruling that a

mother's sexual orientation cannot be presumed to be detrimental to her children is supported by a considerable body of scientific research on children of lesbian parents, finding that children raised by gay parents are as healthy psychologically and socially as those raised by heterosexuals, and that there is no significant difference between the two groups on sexual identity and gender role issues; and (2) research on parenting issues indicates that lesbians and gay men are as fit parents as heterosexuals, homosexuality is not a mental disorder, and the two groups have comparable parenting skills.

Result: The Supreme Court of Missouri affirmed that the relevant test was the "best interests of the children" and that homosexual parents are not ipso facto unfit for custody. However, the court decided that it was proper to consider the impact of homosexual or heterosexual misconduct on children, and affirmed the custody determination that had gone to the heterosexual parent. The court did find the visitation restrictions imposed by the trial court to be too broad (the children were prohibited from being in the presence of anyone known to be a lesbian and any female with whom the mother was living who was not a relative). The Court remanded the visitation restrictions to the trial court to limit the conditions to apply only to individuals whose presence or conduct may be contrary to the best interests of the children.

Hertzler v. Hertzler, 908 P.2d 946

Brief Filed: 12/94

Court: Supreme Court of the State of Wyoming

Year of Decision: 1995

Issue: Whether the "best interests of the child" is served by restricting visitation rights to a minimum level because of a mother's sexual orientation as a lesbian

Facts: Pamela and Dean Hertzler were married for 15 years. During the marriage, they adopted two children. Pamela initiated divorce proceedings after determining that she was a lesbian. After the divorce, Pamela was awarded custody of the two children. She later moved to Ohio to live with her partner, Peggy

Keating. In order to move, she agreed to transfer custody to Dean, with the understanding that she would be allowed liberal visitation as was the case for Dean when she had custody. After Dean remarried, he filed a petition to modify the visitation arrangement and filed a motion for a temporary restraining order. He alleged that the children had been harmed by contact with their mother and her domestic partner. Based on Dean's allegations, the court issued a temporary restraining order that limited Pamela's contact to supervised visits and disallowed any contact between the children and Peggy. The court determined that the children had been exposed to inappropriate sexual behavior and had become eroticized. The judge relied on the testimony of Mr. J. Lynn Rhodes, a former minister who recently received his master's degree in counseling and who admitted during trial that his religious beliefs regarding homosexuality affected his opinions in the case. The judge rejected the opinions offered by plaintiff's experts, Dr. Carol Jenny, MD (Director of the Child Advocacy and Protection Team at Children's Hospital Denver), and Dr. Larry Bloom (a licensed clinical psychologist with 20 years' experience in evaluating family interaction and dynamics). The court held that homosexuality is generally socially unacceptable, and it is probable that the children will be subject to social difficulties as a result of the plaintiff's lifestyle in addition to their personal concern. The court stated it would find it appropriate to reduce the plaintiff's visitation with the children, even if issues of sexual abuse or eroticization were resolved, because (1) the plaintiff's open homosexuality was likely to create confusion and difficulty for the children, (2) her lifestyle was likely to negatively affect the development of the children's moral values, and (3) the state had an interest in supporting conventional marriages and families. Pamela appealed to the Supreme Court of Wyoming.

APA's Position: APA submitted a brief arguing that: (1) the social science research (a) has reported no significant differences between children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers and those raised by heterosexual parents, (b) indicates that the overall psychological health of children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers does not differ from that of children raised by heterosexual parents, (c) reports no differences

between the social relationships of children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers and children raised by heterosexual parents, and (d) does not suggest that a parent's sexual orientation influences the sexual identity of his or her child; (2) the social science research does not suggest that lesbian mothers and gay fathers are likely to be unfit parents; and (3) visitation cases should be decided without regard to a parent's openly lesbian or gay relationship because (a) an assumption that a child should not have significant contact with a parent in an openly lesbian or gay relationship undermines Wyoming's statutory mandate that visitation determinations be based on the welfare of the child, and (b) the trial court's reference to a state interest in supporting conventional marriages and families does not provide an appropriate basis for restricting a parent's visitation rights.

Result: The Wyoming Supreme Court affirmed the trial court, but strongly criticized the judge for indulging in personal biases against homosexuality and ordered the court to continue to ease the limitations on Pamela's visitation times.

**Bottoms v. Bottoms, 457 S.E.2d 102,
(1997 WL 421218)**

(on appeal after remand)

Brief(s) Filed: 11/93 (Va. Ct. App.); 12/94 (Va. S. Ct.)

Courts: Virginia Court of Appeals; Supreme Court of Virginia

Year of Decision(s): 1995

Issue: Whether a lesbian biological mother could be denied custody of her child on the grounds that her sexual orientation rendered her unfit as a parent

Facts: Kay Bottoms sought custody of her grandson because his mother, Sharon Bottoms, was a lesbian and was raising the boy in the home she shared with her lesbian lover. The trial court held that because she was a lesbian, Sharon Bottoms was per se unfit to raise her son and awarded custody to the grandmother. APA submitted a brief at the appellate level, and the trial court's decision was reversed. The grandmother appealed to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

APA's Position: APA submitted a brief to the Supreme Court of Virginia arguing that: (1) social science research indicates that (a) there are no significant differences between children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers and those raised by heterosexual parents, (b) the overall psychological health of children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers does not differ from that of children raised by heterosexual parents, (c) no differences have been reported between the social relationships of children raised by lesbian mothers or gay fathers and children raised by heterosexual parents, (d) a parent's sexual orientation does not influence the gender identity, gender role behavior, or sexual orientation of his or her child, (e) lesbian mothers and gay fathers are not likely to be unfit parents, and (f) lesbian mothers and gay fathers have parenting skills comparable to those of heterosexual parents; (2) professional social science organizations have rejected the view that lesbians and gay men as a group are dysfunctional; (3) a natural parent in an openly lesbian or gay relationship is entitled to the presumption of parental fitness; and (4) the fact that sodomy continues to be punishable as a felony under Virginia law is not grounds for depriving a lesbian or gay parent of custody.

Result: The Supreme Court of Virginia held that there was sufficient evidence to support the trial court's findings that a presumption in favor of mother's custody was rebutted by clear and convincing evidence of unfitness and that the child's best interests would be served by awarding custody to the grandmother. It found that felonious sexual conduct inherent in lesbianism was an important consideration in determining the mother's unfitness for custody of the child, and that the child's cursing, emotional upset at visitation with the mother, and standing in a corner proved that the child had been harmed by the mother's living conditions. Visitation was also set by the lower court and was appealed by the mother. The Virginia Supreme Court reversed the decree dismissing the mother's "show cause petition" and substantially modifying the terms of visitation that prohibited all contact between the child and the mother's lover. The court held that the trial

court had improperly based its disposition of the visitation decree solely on the mother's sexual status, ignoring evidence of the pertinent statutory factors and without regard to the evidence of impact of the attendant conduct on the child.

Li v. Oregon

Brief Filed: 10/04

Court: Supreme Court of the State of Oregon

Year of Decision: 2005

Issue: A challenge to the constitutionality of Oregon's statutes limiting the right to marry to opposite-sex couples

Facts: Plaintiffs in this case—nine same-sex couples, the ACLU, and Multnomah County—filed a lawsuit challenging the state's refusal to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The lawsuit charges that Oregon's marriage statute, which bars same-sex couples from marriage, violates the state constitutional guarantees of fairness and equality. The trial court agreed with plaintiffs' constitutional premise. However, the court declined to grant the relief that plaintiffs sought (i.e., extension of the right of marriage to same sex couples). Instead, the trial court ruled that denying the issuing of marriage licenses to same-sex couples violated the state constitution by denying certain benefits to same-sex couples that otherwise were available to opposite sex couples by virtue of their marriages. The court gave the state legislature a deadline for creating a system for providing same-sex domestic partners access to similar rights afforded to married couples. The decision was appealed and went before the Oregon Supreme Court.

In November 2004, while the appeal was pending, Oregon voters adopted Ballot Measure 36, a voter-initiated amendment to the Oregon Constitution defining marriage as a relationship between one man and one woman. That amendment became effective in December 2004. The Supreme Court solicited supplemental briefing before hearing oral arguments, asking the parties to address the effect (if any) of that new constitutional provision on the issues raised in the appeal.

APA's Position: APA's brief provides the Court with the scientific and professional literature pertinent to the issues before the Court. Material provided is consistent with research APA provided as amicus in a variety of other cases involving parental rights, challenges to sodomy statutes, and other GLBT rights issues. The brief addresses the extensive psychological literature that has found no difference between same-sex and heterosexual couples on characteristics such as levels of intimacy, feelings of commitment, and desire for relationships as well as the scientific research which has firmly established that homosexuality is not a disorder or disease. Additionally, the brief addresses the large number of children raised by lesbians and gay men, both in same-sex couples and in single-parent families. APA takes the position that ending the prohibition on marriage for same-sex partners is in the best interest of the children being raised by these parents as the children will benefit from the legal stability and other familial benefits that marriage provides. The brief cites empirical research which shows that lesbian and gay parents do not differ from heterosexuals in their parenting skills, and their children do not show any deficits compared to children raised by heterosexual parents. Unlike past APA briefs supporting same-sex couples, this brief also addresses the social and psychological benefits—to both gay and heterosexual people—of marriage as an institution. The brief states that allowing same-sex couples to marry would give them access to the legal, social, and economic support that already facilitate and strengthen heterosexual marriages as well as end the anti-gay stigma imposed by the state through its same-sex marriage ban. Also addressed are invalidities in the research presented by opponents of same-sex marriage. In summary, the APA brief states that there is no scientific basis for distinguishing between same-sex couples and heterosexual couples with respect to the legal rights, obligations, benefits, and burdens conferred by civil marriage.

Result: In April 2005, the Oregon State Supreme Court ruled that Oregon's marriage statute limits marriage to opposite-sex couples and is constitutional by virtue of the amendment to the state con-

stitution barring same-sex marriage adopted in November 2004. The Court held that the issue of access to the benefits of marriage, i.e., the constitutional requirement of civil unions or some other alternative, was not properly before it and did not address that issue. The judgment of the circuit court was reversed, with the case remanded to the circuit court with instructions to dismiss the action.

Lewis v. Harris

Brief Filed: 11/04

Court: Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division

Year of Decision: 2005

Issue: Whether the New Jersey Constitution compels the state to allow same-sex couples to marry

Facts: Plaintiffs are seven same-sex couples who each applied for marriage licenses in New Jersey. Defendants are state officials with supervisory responsibilities relating to local officials' issuance of marriage licenses. Plaintiffs claim that the denial of their applications for marriage licenses violates their rights of privacy and equal protection of the law protected by the New Jersey Constitution. As relief for the claimed violations of their state constitutional rights, plaintiffs sought a mandatory injunction compelling the defendant state officials to provide them access to the institution of marriage on the same terms and conditions as a couple of the opposite sex. The trial court granted summary judgment for the state, denying the plaintiffs/appellants relief, and the case was appealed to the Superior Court of New Jersey.

APA's Position: APA's brief provides the Court with the scientific and professional literature pertinent to the issues before the Court. Material provided is consistent with research APA provided as amicus in a variety of other cases involving parental rights, challenges to sodomy statutes, and other GLBT rights issues. The brief addresses the extensive psychological literature that has found no difference between same-sex and heterosexual couples on characteristics such as levels of intimacy, feelings of

commitment, and desire for relationships as well as the scientific research that has firmly established that homosexuality is not a disorder or disease. Additionally, the brief addresses the large number of children raised by lesbians and gay men, both in same-sex couples and in single-parent families. APA takes the position that ending the prohibition on marriage for same-sex partners is in the best interest of the children being raised by these parents, as the children will benefit from the legal stability and other familial benefits that marriage provides. The brief cites empirical research which shows that lesbian and gay parents do not differ from heterosexuals in their parenting skills, and their children do not show any deficits compared to children raised by heterosexual parents. Unlike past APA briefs supporting same-sex couples, this brief also addresses the social and psychological benefits—to both gay and heterosexual people—of marriage as an institution. The brief states that allowing same-sex couples to marry would give them access to the legal, social, and economic support that already facilitate and strengthen heterosexual marriages as well as end the anti-gay stigma imposed by the state through its same-sex marriage ban. Also addressed are invalidities in the research presented by opponents of same-sex marriage. In summary, the APA brief states that there is no scientific basis for distinguishing between same-sex couples and heterosexual couples with respect to the legal rights, obligations, benefits, and burdens conferred by civil marriage.

Result: In June 2005, in a 2-1 opinion, New Jersey's Appellate Division ruled that the state's constitution does not compel New Jersey to allow same-sex couples to marry. The court held that such a change in the marriage law should come from the legislature and not the courts. Because there was a dissenting opinion at the appellate level, the Supreme Court must accept the appeal. APA will participate as amicus at the Supreme Court level.

Andersen v. King County

Brief Filed: 2/05

Court: Supreme Court of the State of Washington

Year of Decision: Pending

Issue: A challenge to the constitutionality of Washington's statutes limiting the right to marry to opposite-sex couples

Facts: Plaintiffs filed suit challenging the denial of marriage licenses to same-sex couples, arguing that denying marriage to same-sex couples violates the state constitution's guarantees of equality, liberty, and privacy to all state citizens. The state trial court, King County Superior Court, issued a decision holding that the state's law limiting marriage to opposite-sex couples violates the due process and equal protection guarantees of the Washington Constitution. The court concluded that the exclusion of same-sex partners from marriage and the privileges it entails "is not rationally related to any legitimate or compelling state interest." The trial court stayed the effect of its decision and certified the case for an immediate appeal.

APA's Position: This case poses fundamentally the same questions as the cases in *New Jersey, Lewis v. Harris*, and *Oregon, Li v. Oregon*, in which the APA filed amicus briefs. Although some details of the legal standards and specific arguments at issue in each of the cases may vary slightly, the psychological issues addressed by APA's amicus brief are essentially the same.

Result: The trial court specifically cited the APA's July 2004 resolution supporting same-sex marriage. In September 2004, the State Supreme Court accepted direct review of the trial court decision, and oral arguments were held in March 2005. A decision is pending.

Professional Association Policies

American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (1999)

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP) approved the following statement in support of gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals in June 1999:

"The basis on which all decisions relating to custody and parental rights should rest on the best interest of the child. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals historically have faced more rigorous scrutiny than heterosexuals regarding their rights to be or become parents.

"There is no evidence to suggest or support that parents with a gay, lesbian, or bisexual orientation are per se different from or deficient in parenting skills, child-centered concerns and parent-child attachments, when compared to parents with a heterosexual orientation. It has long been established that a homosexual orientation is not related to psychopathology, and there is no basis on which to assume that a parental homosexual orientation will increase likelihood of or induce a homosexual orientation in the child.

"Outcome studies of children raised by parents with a homosexual or bisexual orientation, when compared to heterosexual parents, show no greater degree of instability in the parental relationship or developmental dysfunction in children.

"The AACAP opposes any discrimination based on sexual orientation against individuals in regard to their rights as custodial or adoptive parents as adopted by Council."

American Academy of Family Physicians (2002)

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) adopted the following position statement at its October 2002 meeting:

"RESOLVED, That the AAFP establish policy and be supportive of legislation which promotes a safe and nurturing environment, including psychological and legal security, for all children, including those of adoptive parents, regardless of the parents' sexual orientation."

American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (2004)

On same-sex unions. The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers adopted the following position statement at its November 2004 meeting:

"BE IT RESOLVED That the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers supports the legalization of marriage between same-sex couples and the extension to same-sex couples who marry and their children of all of the legal rights and obligations of spouses and children of spouses.

"BE IT RESOLVED That the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers encourages the United States Congress and the legislatures of all states to achieve the legalization of marriage between same-sex couples and the extension to same-sex couples who marry and their children of all of the legal rights and obligations of spouses and children of spouses.

American Academy of Pediatrics (2002)

The American Academy of Pediatrics issued the following statement in support of gay and lesbian parenting and called for equal access to co-parenting and second-parent adoption rights for gay and lesbian parents in February 2002:

"Children deserve to know that their relationships with both of their parents are stable and legally recognized. This applies to all children, whether their parents are of the same or opposite sex. The American Academy of Pediatrics recognizes that a considerable body of professional literature provides evidence that children with parents who are homosexual can have the same advantages and the same expectations for health, adjustment, and development as can children

whose parents are heterosexual. When two adults participate in parenting a child, they and the child deserve the serenity that comes with legal recognition.

"Children born or adopted into families headed by partners who are of the same sex usually have only one biologic or adoptive legal parent. The other partner in a parental role is called the "coparent" or "second parent." Because these families and children need the permanence and security that are provided by having two fully sanctioned and legally defined parents, the Academy supports the legal adoption of children by coparents or second parents. Denying legal parent status through adoption to coparents or second parents prevents these children from enjoying the psychologic and legal security that comes from having two willing, capable, and loving parents.

"Several states have considered or enacted legislation sanctioning second-parent adoption by partners of the same sex. In addition, legislative initiatives assuring legal status equivalent to marriage for gay and lesbian partners, such as the law approving civil unions in Vermont, can also attend to providing security and permanence for the children of those partnerships.

"Many states have not yet considered legislative actions to ensure the security of children whose parents are gay or lesbian. Rather, adoption has been decided by probate or family courts on a case-by-case basis. Case precedent is limited. It is important that a broad ethical mandate exist nationally that will guide the courts in providing necessary protection for children through coparent adoption.

"Coparent or second-parent adoption protects the child's right to maintain continuing relationships with both parents. The legal sanction provided by coparent adoption accomplishes the following:

1. Guarantees that the second parent's custody rights and responsibilities will be protected if the first parent were to die or become incapacitated. Moreover, second-parent adoption protects the child's legal right of relationships with both parents. In the absence of coparent adoption, mem-

bers of the family of the legal parent, should he or she become incapacitated, might successfully challenge the surviving coparent's rights to continue to parent the child, thus causing the child to lose both parents.

2. Protects the second parent's rights to custody and visitation if the couple separates. Likewise, the child's right to maintain relationships with both parents after separation, viewed as important to a positive outcome in separation or divorce of heterosexual parents, would be protected for families with gay or lesbian parents.
3. Establishes the requirement for child support from both parents in the event of the parents' separation.
4. Ensures the child's eligibility for health benefits from both parents.
5. Provides legal grounds for either parent to provide consent for medical care and to make education, health care, and other important decisions on behalf of the child.
6. Creates the basis for financial security for children in the event of the death of either parent by ensuring eligibility to all appropriate entitlements, such as Social Security survivors benefits.

"On the basis of the acknowledged desirability that children have and maintain a continuing relationship with two loving and supportive parents, the Academy recommends that pediatricians do the following:

Be familiar with professional literature regarding gay and lesbian parents and their children.

Support the right of every child and family to the financial, psychologic, and legal security that results from having legally recognized parents who are committed to each other and to the welfare of their children.

Advocate for initiatives that establish permanency through coparent or second-parent adoption for children of same-sex partners through the judicial system, legislation, and community education."

American Anthropological Association (2004)

On same-sex unions. The American Anthropological Association issued the following statement in February 2004:

"The results of more than a century of anthropological research on households, kinship relationships, and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social orders depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution. Rather, anthropological research supports the conclusion that a vast array of family types, including families built upon same-sex partnerships, can contribute to stable and humane societies.

"The Executive Board of the American Anthropological Association strongly opposes a constitutional amendment limiting marriage to heterosexual couples."

American Bar Association (2003, 1999, and 1995)

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Bar Association adopted the following position statement in August 2003:

"RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports state and territorial laws and court decisions that permit the establishment of legal parent-child relationships through joint adoptions and second-parent adoptions by unmarried persons who are functioning as a child's parents when such adoptions are in the best interests of the child."

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Bar Association adopted the following position statement in February 1999:

"RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the enactment of laws and implementation of public policy that provide that sexual orientation shall not be a bar to adoption when the adoption is determined to be in the best interest of the child."

On child custody and visitation. The American Bar Association adopted the following position statement in August 1995:

"BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the enactment of legislation and implementation of public policy providing that child custody and visitation shall not be denied or restricted on the basis of sexual orientation."

American Medical Association

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Medical Association adopted the following position statement at its June 2004 meeting:

"WHEREAS, Having two fully sanctioned and legally defined parents promotes a safe and nurturing environment for children, including psychological and legal security; and

"WHEREAS, Children born or adopted into families headed by partners who are of the same sex usually have only one biologic or adoptive legal parent; and

"WHEREAS, The legislative protection afforded to children of parents in homosexual relationships varies from state to state, with some states enacting or considering legislation sanctioning co-parent or second parent adoption by partners of the same sex, several states declining to consider legislation, and at least one state altogether banning adoption by the second parent; and

"WHEREAS, Co-parent or second parent adoption guarantees that the second parent's custody rights and responsibilities are protected if the first parent dies or becomes incapacitated; and

"WHEREAS, Co-parent or second parent adoption ensures the child's eligibility for health benefits from both parents and establishes the requirement for child support from both parents in the event of the parents' separation; and

"WHEREAS, Co-parent or second parent adoption establishes legal grounds to provide consent for medical care and to make health care decisions on

behalf of the child and guarantees visitation rights if the child becomes hospitalized; and

"WHEREAS, The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Psychiatric Association have each issued statements supporting initiatives which allow same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children; therefore be it

"RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support legislative and other efforts to allow the adoption of a child by the same-sex partner, or opposite sex non-married partner, who functions as a second parent or co-parent to that child. (New HOD Policy)"

American Psychiatric Association (2002, 1997, and 2000)

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Psychiatric Association adopted the following position statement at its November 2002 meeting:

"The American Psychiatric Association supports initiatives that allow same-sex couples to adopt and co-parent children and supports all the associated legal rights, benefits, and responsibilities which arise from such initiatives."

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Psychiatric Association adopted the following position statement at its December 1997 meeting:

"1. Sexual orientation should not be used as the sole or primary factor in child custody decisions."

"2. Gay and lesbian couples and individuals should be allowed to become parents through adoption, fostering and new reproductive technologies, subject to the same type of screening used with heterosexual couples and individuals. "

"3. Second-parent adoptions which grant full parental rights to a second, unrelated adult (usually an unmarried partner of a legal parent), are often in the best interest of the child(ren) and should not be prohibited solely because both adults are of the same gender."

"4. Custody determinations after dissolution of a gay relationship should be done in a manner similar to other custody determinations."

On same-sex unions. The American Psychiatric Association adopted the following position statement at its November 2000 meeting:

"The American Psychiatric Association supports the legal recognition of same sex unions and their associated legal rights, benefits and responsibilities."

American Psychoanalytic Association (1997 and 2002)

On marriage. The Executive Council of the American Psychoanalytic Association endorsed the following resolution in December 1997 (reaffirmed in March 2004):

"Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, RESOLVED, the state should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage."

On gay and lesbian parenting. The American Psychoanalytic Association adopted this policy statement in support of gay and lesbian parenting in May 2002:

"The American Psychoanalytic Association supports the position that the salient consideration in decisions about parenting, including conception, child rearing, adoption, visitation and custody is in the best interest of the child. Accumulated evidence suggests the best interest of the child requires attachment to committed, nurturing and competent parents. Evaluation of an individual or couple for these parental qualities should be determined without prejudice regarding sexual orientation. Gay and lesbian individuals and couples are capable of meeting the best interest of the child and should be afforded the same rights and should accept the same responsibilities as heterosexual parents. With the adoption of this position statement, we support research studies that further our understanding of the impact of both traditional and gay/lesbian parenting on a child's development."

American Psychological Association (1976, 1998, and 2004)

Discrimination Against Homosexuals

[Adopted by the American Psychological Association (APA) Council of Representatives on January 24-26, 1975.]

"1. The American Psychological Association supports the action taken on December 15, 1973, by the American Psychiatric Association, removing homosexuality from that Association's official list of mental disorders. The American Psychological Association therefore adopts the following resolution:

"Homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social and vocational capabilities; Further, the American Psychological Association urges all mental health professionals to take the lead in removing the stigma of mental illness that has long been associated with homosexual orientations.

"2. Regarding discrimination against homosexuals, the American Psychological Association adopts the following resolution concerning their civil and legal rights:

"The American Psychological Association deplors all public and private discrimination in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation, and licensing against those who engage in or have engaged in homosexual activities and declares that no burden of proof of such judgment, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon these individuals greater than that imposed on any other persons. Further, the American Psychological Association supports and urges the enactment of civil rights legislation at the local, state, and federal levels that would offer citizens who engage in acts of homosexuality the same protections now guaranteed to others on the basis of race, creed, color, etc. Further, the American Psychological Association supports and urges the repeal of all discriminatory legislation singling out homosexual acts by consenting adults in private (Conger, 1975, p. 633)."

Conger, J. J. (1975). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1974: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives. *American Psychologist*, 30, 620-651.

On marriage rights for same-sex couples. The American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopted this position statement on July 28, 2004:

"WHEREAS APA has a long-established policy to deplore 'all public and private discrimination against gay men and lesbians' and urges 'the repeal of all discriminatory legislation against lesbians and gay men' (Conger, 1975, p. 633);

"WHEREAS the APA adopted the Resolution on Legal Benefits for Same-Sex Couples in 1998 (Levant, 1998, pp. 665-666);

"WHEREAS discrimination and prejudice based on sexual orientation detrimentally affect psychological, physical, social, and economic well-being (Badgett, 2001; Cochran, Sullivan, & Mays, 2003; Herek, Gillis, & Cogan, 1999; Meyer, 2003);

"WHEREAS 'anthropological research on households, kinship relationships, and families, across cultures and through time, provide no support whatsoever for the view that either civilization or viable social orders depend upon marriage as an exclusively heterosexual institution' (American Anthropological Association, 2004);

"WHEREAS psychological research on relationships and couples provides no evidence to justify discrimination against same-sex couples (Kurdek, 2001, in press; Peplau & Beals, 2004; Peplau & Spalding, 2000);

"WHEREAS the institution of civil marriage confers a social status and important legal benefits, rights, and privileges;

"WHEREAS the United States General Accounting Office (2004) has identified over 1,000 federal statutory provisions in which marital status is a factor in determining or receiving benefits, rights, and privileges, for example, those concerning taxation, federal loans, and dependent and survivor benefits (e.g., Social Security, military, and veterans);

"WHEREAS there are numerous state, local, and private sector laws and other provisions in which marital status is a factor in determining or receiving benefits, rights, and privileges, for example, those concerning taxation, health insurance, health care decision making, property rights, pension and retirement benefits, and inheritance;

"WHEREAS same-sex couples are denied equal access to civil marriage;

"WHEREAS same-sex couples who enter into a civil union are denied equal access to all the benefits, rights, and privileges provided by federal law to married couples (United States General Accounting Office, 2004);

"WHEREAS the benefits, rights, and privileges associated with domestic partnerships are not universally available, are not equal to those associated with marriage, and are rarely portable;

"WHEREAS people who also experience discrimination based on age, race, ethnicity, disability, gender and gender identity, religion, and socioeconomic status may especially benefit from access to marriage for same-sex couples (Division 44/Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Joint Task Force on Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients, 2000);

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the APA believes that it is unfair and discriminatory to deny same-sex couples legal access to civil marriage and to all its attendant benefits, rights, and privileges;

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT APA shall take a leadership role in opposing all discrimination in legal benefits, rights, and privileges against same-sex couples;

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT APA encourages psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination against same-sex couples in their practice, research, education, and training ("Ethical Principles," 2002, p. 1063);

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the APA shall provide scientific and educational resources that inform public discussion and public policy development regarding sexual orientation and marriage and that assist its members, divisions, and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations."

American Anthropological Association. (2004). *Statement on marriage and family from the American Anthropological Association*. Retrieved May 11, 2004, from http://www.aaanet.org/press/ma_stmt_marriage.htm.

American Psychological Association. (2002). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. *American Psychologist*, 57, 1060-1073.

Badgett, M. V. L. (2001). *Money, myths, and change: The economic lives of lesbians and gay men*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Cochran, S. D., Sullivan, J. G., & Mays, V. M. (2003). Prevalence of mental disorders, psychological distress, and mental health service use among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in the United States. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 71, 53-61.

Conger, J. J. (1975). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1974: Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council of Representatives. *American Psychologist*, 30, 620-651.

Division 44/Committee on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns Joint Task Force on Guidelines for Psychotherapy with Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Clients. (2000). Guidelines for psychotherapy with lesbian, gay, and bisexual clients. *American Psychologist*, 55, 1440-1451.

- Herek, G. M., Gillis, J. R., & Cogan, J. C. (1999). Psychological sequelae of hate crime victimization among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults. *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 67, 945-951.
- Kurdek, L. A. (2001). Differences between heterosexual non-parent couples and gay, lesbian, and heterosexual parent couples. *Journal of Family Issues*, 22, 727-754.
- Levant, R. F. (1999). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the legislative year 1998: Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Council of Representatives February 20-22, 1998, Washington, DC, and August 13 and 16, 1998, San Francisco, CA, and minutes of the February, June, August, and December meetings of the Board of Directors. *American Psychologist*, 54, 605-671.
- Meyer, I. H. (2003). Prejudice, social stress, mental health in lesbian, gay, and bisexual populations: Conceptual issues and research evidence. *Psychological Bulletin*, 129, 674-697.
- Paige, R. U. (2005). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association for the legislative year 2004: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives, February 20-22, 2004, Washington, DC, and July 28 and 30, 2004, Honolulu, Hawaii, and Minutes of the February, April, June, August, October, and December 2004 Meetings of the Board of Directors. *American Psychologist*, 60, 436-511.
- Peplau, L. A., & Beals, K. P. (2004). The family lives of lesbians and gay men. In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.), *Handbook of family communication* (pp. 233-248). Mahwah, NJ: Erlbaum.
- Peplau, L. A., & Spalding, L. R. (2000). The close relationships of lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals. In C. Hendrick & S. S. Hendrick (Eds.), *Close relationships: A sourcebook* (pp. 111-123). Thousand Oaks: Sage.
- United States General Accounting Office. (2004, January 23). Defense of Marriage Act: Update to prior report [GAO-04-353R]. Retrieved May 19, 2004, from <http://www.gao.gov>.
- On parenting.** The American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopted this position statement July 28, 2004:
- "WHEREAS APA supports policy and legislation that promote safe, secure, and nurturing environments for all children (DeLeon, 1993, 1995; Fox, 1991; Levant, 2000);
- "WHEREAS APA has a long-established policy to deplore 'all public and private discrimination against gay men and lesbians' and urges 'the repeal of all discriminatory legislation against lesbians and gay men' (Conger, 1975);
- "WHEREAS the APA adopted the Resolution on Child Custody and Placement in 1976 (Conger, 1977, p. 432);
- "WHEREAS discrimination against lesbian and gay parents deprives their children of benefits, rights, and privileges enjoyed by children of heterosexual married couples;
- "WHEREAS some jurisdictions prohibit gay and lesbian individuals and same-sex couples from adopting children, notwithstanding the great need for adoptive parents (Lofton v. Secretary, 2004);
- "WHEREAS there is no scientific evidence that parenting effectiveness is related to parental sexual orientation: Lesbian and gay parents are as likely as heterosexual parents to provide supportive and healthy environments for their children (Patterson, 2000, 2004; Perrin, 2002; Tasker, 1999);
- "WHEREAS research has shown that the adjustment, development, and psychological well-being of children is unrelated to parental sexual orientation and that the children of lesbian and gay parents are as likely as those of heterosexual parents to flourish (Patterson, 2004; Perrin, 2002; Stacey & Biblarz, 2001);

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the APA opposes any discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of adoption, child custody and visitation, foster care, and reproductive health services;

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the APA believes that children reared by a same-sex couple benefit from legal ties to each parent;

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the APA supports the protection of parent-child relationships through the legalization of joint adoptions and second-parent adoptions of children being reared by same-sex couples;

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT APA shall take a leadership role in opposing all discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of adoption, child custody and visitation, foster care, and reproductive health services;

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT APA encourages psychologists to act to eliminate all discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of adoption, child custody and visitation, foster care, and reproductive health services in their practice, research, education, and training (Ethical Principles, 2002, p. 1063);

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT the APA shall provide scientific and educational resources that inform public discussion and public policy development regarding discrimination based on sexual orientation in matters of adoption, child custody and visitation, foster care, and reproductive health services and that assist its members, divisions, and affiliated state, provincial, and territorial psychological associations."

American Psychological Association. (2002). Ethical principles of psychologists and code of conduct. *American Psychologist*, 57, 1060-1073.

Conger, J. J. (1977). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1976: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives. *American Psychologist*, 32, 408-438.

Conger, J. J. (1975). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1974: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives. *American Psychologist*, 30, 620-651.

DeLeon, P. H. (1995). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1994: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives August 11 and 14, 1994, Los Angeles, CA, and February 17-19, 1995, Washington, DC. *American Psychologist*, 49, 627-628.

DeLeon, P. H. (1993). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1992: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives August 13 and 16, 1992, and February 26-28, 1993, Washington, DC. *American Psychologist*, 48, 782.

Fox, R. E. (1991). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1990: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives August 9 and 12, 1990, Boston, MA, and February 8-9, 1991, Washington, DC. *American Psychologist*, 45, 845.

Levant, R. F. (2000). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1999: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives February 19-21, 1999, Washington, DC, and August 19 and 22, 1999, Boston, MA, and Minutes of the February, June, August, and December 1999 meetings of the Board of Directors. *American Psychologist*, 55, 832-890.

Lofton v. Secretary of Department of Children and Family Services, 358 F.3d 804 (11th Cir. 2004).

Patterson, C. J. (2004). Gay fathers. In M. E. Lamb (Ed.), *The role of the father in child development* (4th Ed.). New York: John Wiley.

Patterson, C. J. (2000). Family relationships of lesbians and gay men. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62, 1052-1069.

Perrin, E. C., & the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2002). Technical report: Coparent or second-parent adoption by same-sex parents. *Pediatrics*, 109, 341-344.

Stacey, J., & Biblarz, T. J. (2001). (How) Does sexual orientation of parents matter? *American Sociological Review*, 65, 159-183.

Tasker, F. (1999). Children in lesbian-led families- A review. *Clinical Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, 4, 153-166.

On parenting. The American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopted the following position statement in September 1976:

"The sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation of natural or prospective adoptive or foster parents should not be the sole or primary variable considered in custody or placement cases."

Reference: Conger, J. J. (1977). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1976: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives. *American Psychologist*, 32, 408-438.

On legal benefits for same-sex couples. The American Psychological Association Council of Representatives adopted this position statement in August 1998:

"WHEREAS there is evidence that homosexuality per se implies no impairment in judgment, stability, reliability, or general social and vocational capabilities (Conger, 1975) for individuals;

"WHEREAS legislation, other public policy, and private policy on issues related to same-sex couples is currently under development in many places in North America (e.g., Canadian Psychological Association, 1996);

"WHEREAS the scientific literature has found no significant difference between different-sex couples and same-sex couples that justify discrimination (Kurdek, 1994; 1983; Peplau, 1991);

"WHEREAS scientific research has not found significant psychological or emotional differences between the children raised in different-sex versus same-sex households (Patterson, 1994);

"WHEREAS APA has, as a long established policy, deplored 'all public and private discrimination against gay men and lesbians in such areas as employment, housing, administration, and licensing ...' and has consistently urged 'the repeal of all discriminatory legislation against lesbians and gay men' (Conger, 1975);

"WHEREAS denying the legal benefits that the license of marriage offers to same-sex households (including, but not limited to, property rights, health care decision making, estate planning, tax consequences, spousal privileges in medical emergency situations, and co-parental adoption of children) is justified as fair and equal treatment;

"WHEREAS the absence of access to these benefits constitutes a significant psychosocial stressor for lesbians, gay men, and their families;

"WHEREAS APA provides benefits to its members' and employees' domestic partners equivalent to those provided to members' and employees' spouses;

"WHEREAS psychological knowledge can be used to inform the current public and legal debate on 'same-sex marriage' (e.g., Baehr v. Lewin);

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT APA supports the provision to same-sex couples of the legal benefits that typically accrue as a result of marriage to same-sex couples who desire and seek the legal benefits; and

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT APA shall provide relevant psychological knowledge to inform the public discussion in this area and assist state psychological associations and divisions in offering such information as needed."

Baehr v. Lewin, 852 P.2d 44, 59 (Haw. 1993).

Canadian Psychological Association. (1996). Policy statement on equality for lesbians, gay men, and their relationships and families. [Available from the Canadian Psychological Association.]

Conger, J. J. (1975). Proceedings of the American Psychological Association, Incorporated, for the year 1974: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council of Representatives. *American Psychologist*, 30, 620-651.

Kurdek, L. A. (1993). The nature and correlates of relationship quality in gay, lesbian, and heterosexual cohabiting couples: A test of the individual difference, interdependence, and discrepancy models. In B. Greene & G. M. Herek (Eds.), *Lesbian and gay psychology: Theory, research, and clinical issues* (pp. 133-155). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Patterson, C. J. (1993). Children of the lesbian baby boom: Behavioral adjustment, self-concepts, and sex role theory. In B. Greene & G. M. Herek (Eds.), *Lesbian and gay psychology: Theory, research, and clinical issues* (pp. 156-175). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

Peplau, A. L. (1991). Lesbian and gay relationships. In J. C. Gonsiorek and J. D. Weinrich (Eds.), *Homosexuality: Research implications for public policy* (pp. 177-196). Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.

Child Welfare League of America (1988)

The Child Welfare League of America's Standards of Excellence for Adoption Services states:

"Applicants should be assessed on the basis of their abilities to successfully parent a child needing family membership and not on their race, ethnicity or culture, income, age, marital status, religion, appearance, differing lifestyles, or sexual orientation." Further, applicants for adoption should be accepted "on the basis of an individual assessment of their capacity to understand and meet the needs of a particular available child at the point of adoption and in the future."

National Association of Social Workers (2002)

The National Association of Social Workers approved the following policy statement at in August 2002 at the NASW Delegate Assembly.

"Legislation legitimizing second-parent adoptions in same-sex households should be supported. Legislation seeking to restrict foster care and adoption by gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender people should be vigorously opposed."

National Association of Social Workers (1994). Policy statement on lesbian and gay issues. In *Social Work Speaks: NASW Policy Statements* (pp. 162-165). Washington, DC: National Association of Social Workers.

North American Council on Adoptable Children (1998)

The North American Council on Adoptable Children issued a policy statement in 1998 (amended April 14, 2002) that states:

"Children should not be denied a permanent family because of the sexual orientation of potential parents. Everyone with the potential to successfully parent a child in foster care or adoption is entitled to fair and equal consideration."

Organizations

Legal Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union

125 Broad Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY 10004

(Contact information varies by state)

Lesbian and Gay Rights Project (ACLU)

125 Broad Street, 18th Floor

New York, NY, 10004

(Contact information varies by state)

Publications available:

Too high a price: The case against restricting gay parenting. (2004).

Families of value: Personal profiles of pioneering lesbian and gay parents.

Protecting families: Standard for child custody in same-sex relationships. (1999).

Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund

Lambda Legal

120 Wall Street, Suite 1500

New York, NY 10005-3905

Telephone: (212) 809-8585

Email: legalhelpdesk@lambdalegal.org.

Publications available:

You don't need to choose. As a parent, you have rights. (2004)

What's best for your kids? (2004).

The rights of lesbian and gay Parents and their children. (2002).

Protecting families. (1999).

Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders

30 Winter Street, Suite 800

Boston, MA 02108

Telephone: (617) 426-1350

Email: gladlaw@glad.org

Publications available:

Adoption: Questions and answers.

Protecting families: Standards for child custody in same-sex relationships. (1999).

National Center for Lesbian Rights

870 Market Street, Suite 570

San Francisco, CA 94102

Telephone: (415) 392-NCLR

Email: info@nclrights.org

Publications available:

A lesbian and gay parents' legal guide to child custody. (1989).

AIDS and child custody: A guide to advocacy. (1990).

Lesbians choosing motherhood: Legal implications of donor insemination and co-parenting. (1991).

Lesbian mother litigation manual. (1990).

Preserving and protecting the families of lesbians and gay men. (1991).

Recognizing lesbian and gay families: Strategies for obtaining domestic partnership benefits. (1992).

Family Support Organizations

Colage: Children of Lesbians and Gays Everywhere

2300 Market Street

Box 165

San Francisco, CA 94114

Telephone: (415) 861-KIDS

E-mail: kidsofgays@aol.com

Family Diversity Projects Inc.

PO Box 1246

Amherst, MA 01004-1246

Phone: (413) 256-0502

Fax: (413) 253-3977

E-mail: info@familydiv.org

<http://www.familydiv.org>

Family Diversity Projects, a nonprofit organization in Amherst, MA, has created four award-winning traveling rental exhibits that tour communities, schools (K-12), colleges, mental health centers, libraries, houses of worship, workplaces, and conferences, nationwide and internationally. The four exhibits include:

- *Love Makes a Family: Portraits of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People and Their Families* (also a book published by University of Massachusetts Press);

- *In Our Family: Portraits of All Kinds of Families* (with a full curriculum resource guide);
- *Of Many Colors: Portraits of Multiracial Families* (also a book published by University of Massachusetts Press); and
- *Nothing To Hide: Mental Illness in the Family* (also a book published by New Press).

By educating people of all ages to recognize, support, and celebrate the full range of diversity, our traveling exhibits are designed to help reduce prejudice, stereotyping, and harassment of all people who are perceived to be “different” from the “norm.”

Love Makes a Family is a museum-quality traveling exhibit that includes photographs and interviews with families that have lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) members. Through first-person accounts and positive images, this exhibit seeks to challenge and change damaging myths and stereotypes about LGBT people and their families. At the most basic level, *Love Makes a Family* combats homophobia by breaking silence and making the invisible visible. By encouraging people of all ages—beginning in early childhood—to affirm and appreciate diversity, this traveling rental exhibit contributes to the process of dismantling the destructive power of prejudice and intolerance, thereby making the world a safer place for all families.

Designed for audiences of all ages, *Love Makes a Family* challenges stereotypes about LGBT people and helps dismantle homophobia. The photo-text rental

exhibit consists of ready-to-hang framed photographs and text. The companion book, *Love Makes a Family* (published by the University of Massachusetts Press), was named the Best Book about Gay and Lesbian Issues by the Association of Independent Publishers. All of Family Diversity Projects' exhibits include gay- and lesbian-parented families.

For information about how to bring a Family Diversity Projects exhibit to your community (or to get information about the companion books), please contact the address and numbers listed at the beginning of this entry.

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International (GLPCI)

P.O. Box 50360

Washington, DC 20091

Telephone: (202) 583-8029

E-mail: glpcinat@ix.netcom.com

Publications available:

Books for children of lesbian and gay parents. (1995).

GLPCI directory of resources. (1995).

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)

1726 M Street, NW

Suite 400

Washington, DC 20036

Telephone: (202) 467-8180

E-mail: info@pflag.org

